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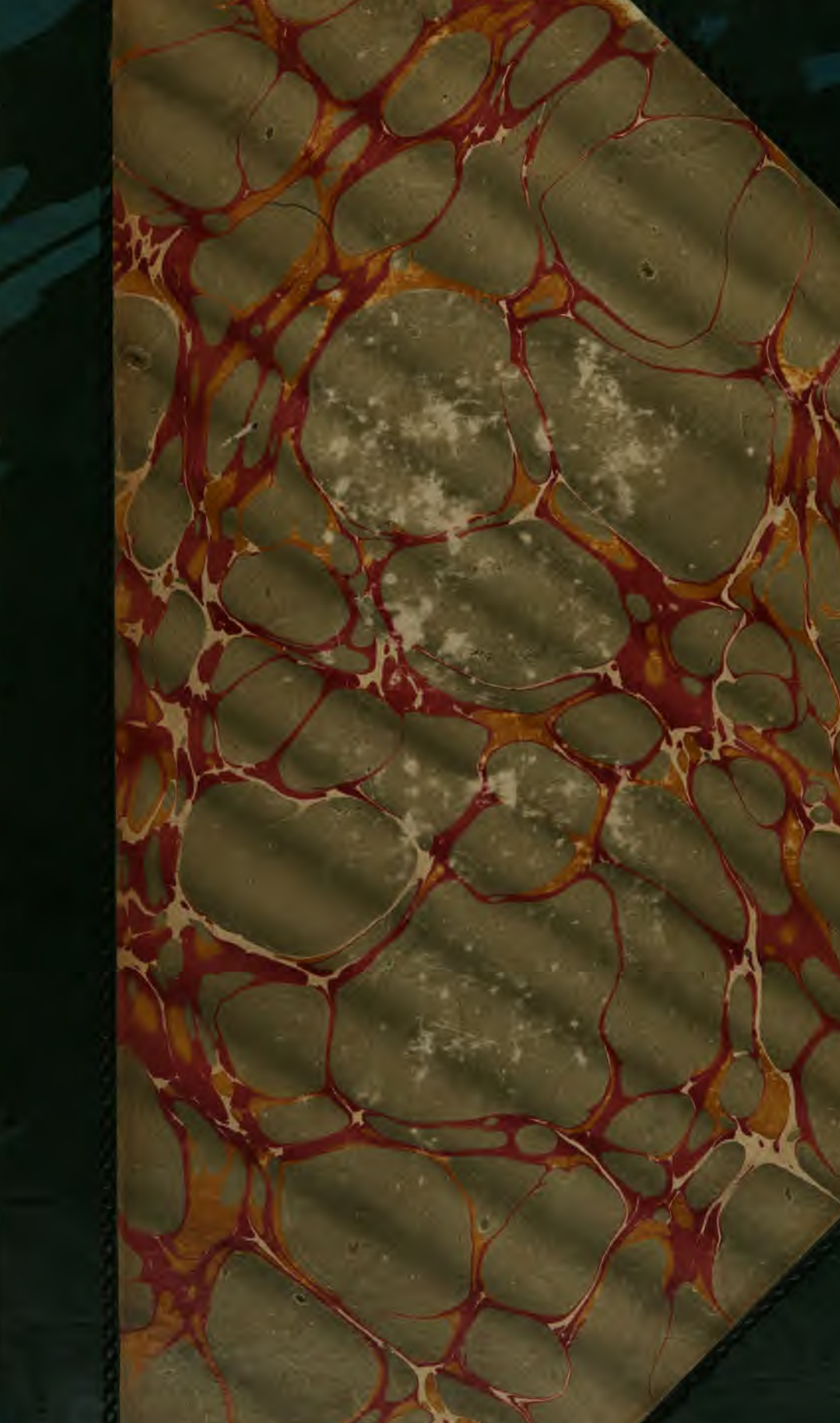
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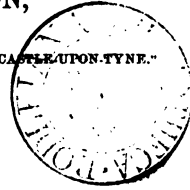
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Gough Add. Northumberland
p. 27.

THE
LOCAL HISTORIAN'S
TABLE BOOK,
OF REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,
Historical Facts, Traditions,
LEGENDARY AND DESCRIPTIVE BALLADS,
&c., &c.,
CONNECTED WITH THE COUNTIES OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

BY M. A. RICHARDSON,
AUTHOR OF "A DESCRIPTIVE COMPANION THROUGH NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE."



HISTORICAL DIVISION. VOL. III.

London:
J. R. SMITH, 4, OLD COMPTON STREET, SOHO SQUARE.
M. A. RICHARDSON, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

MDCCCXLIII.



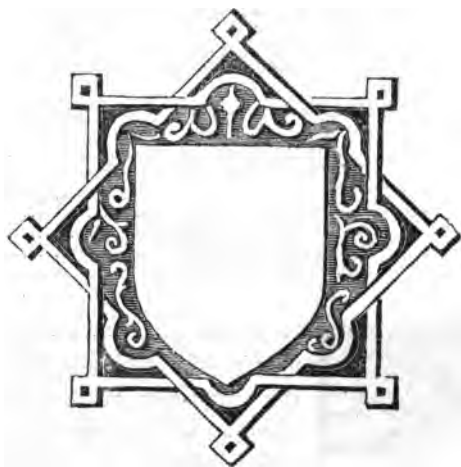
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THE LOCAL HISTORIAN'S TABLE BOOK,

&c., &c.

CHAPTER I.

AND 1800.



THE opening of the year 1800 was marked by the effects of war and the failure of the harvest in 1799, a large portion of which in the southern parts of Northumberland, remained uncut till near the end of January. These circumstances combined to produce such a dearth, that wheat in Newcastle market sold at one guinea a Winchester bushel. On January 4, a public meeting was held in the Guildhall, Newcastle, for the purpose of establishing a public soup-kitchen for the relief of the poor, and to which benevolent scheme the corporation of that town gave fifty guineas. They also erected a large and convenient kitchen at the east end of the poultry market, in the High-bridge. A subscription was likewise formed at Durham for assisting the poor of that city and its neighbourhood, and the hall of St. Nicholas' workhouse was fitted up as a soup-kitchen.—*Local Papers.*

January 27.—Died, Francis Hill, well known by the name of *Old Franky*. He had attended in a sod hut on the road between New-

castle and Shields for upwards of fifty years, to solicit the charity by which his harmless existence was supported.—*Ibid.*

1800 (March 2).—Three prisoners, named John Outerside, under sentence of transportation, Richard Lowe, committed for forgery, and Thomas Graham, committed for high-way robbery, effected their escape from the gaol of Newcastle. By wrenching a bar from the inside of the chimney of their cell they forced their way up the chimney to the roof of the prison, whence, by cutting their bed-clothes and knotting the pieces together, which they tied to a sun-dial on the roof, they descended to the field adjoining Gallowgate. John Sill, convicted with Outerside, attempted to escape at the same time, but being rather corpulent, he stuck fast in the chimney, and could neither get out nor back again, till he was assisted down by the keepers. Outerside was taken the same day by the intrepidity of Mr. Gale, the gaoler, at Woodend, near Beamish, and Graham would have shared the same fate, had some countrymen who were spectators of the pursuit, lent their assistance; while Mr. Gale kept guard upon Outerside, he offered £5 to any who would assist in the pursuit of Graham, which they uniformly refused.—*Local Papers.*

A similar escape was effected on the same day by four of the felons in the gaol at Morpeth, two of whom were soon taken. One of the above four prisoners who made their escape, was John Winter, of the notorious family of that name.—*Ibid.*

This month, a severe contest to represent the city of Durham, took place between Major Matthew Russell, and Michael Angelo Taylor, esq. At the close of the poll, the numbers were for Mr. Taylor 464; for Major Russell 360, and 7 for Mr. Barker who started on the preceding Monday.—*Mon. Mag.*

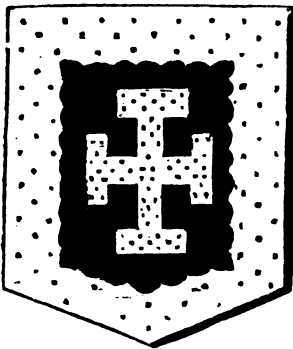
The beginning of this year, no less than sixty-nine out of seventy-three vessels, laden with coals, from Shields and Sunderland, were wrecked in their passage to London.—*Ibid.*

April 4.—Died, in the 40th year of his age, Mr. Solomon Hodgson, many years printer and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle newspaper, in the conduct of which, he uniformly advanced the genuine sentiments of his mind, uninfluenced by party or interest of any kind, and unconnected with any political club or society whatever. Firmly attached to the principles of constitutional liberty, to recal the attention of his readers to those principles, was an object to which he devoted his chief exertions. He feelingly lamented the miseries of war; and so long as he could do it consistently with personal safety, he exercised the privilege of declaring his conscientious sentiments with boldness and freedom, but always without descending to licentiousness or personality. His remains lie interred in St.



John's church-yard, under a table monument, next to that of John Cunningham, the celebrated pastoral poet.—*Local Rec.*

1800 (May 11).—One hundred and forty-four vessels sailed from Shields, under convoy for the Baltic, having on board, besides other commodities, 11,600 chaldrons of coals, Newcastle measure.—*Mon. Mag.*



May 18.—Died, at Blackwell Grange, near Darlington, aged 64 years, George Allan, esq. He was the son of James Allan, of Darlington, and is well known in the literary world as an antiquary and amateur printer. He devoted himself with extreme ardour, from an early age, to the collection of materials for a history of his native country. His library was rich in English topography, but it also contained a number of valuable manuscripts connected with the county of Durham. In 1774, he circulated printed queries to elicit information; but he finally declined the task of arranging for the press the materials which had cost him so much time and labour; and his printed works are confined to a re-publication of Hegge's Legend of St. Cuthbert; Hall's Catalogue of Bishops, from the Library of the Dean and Chapter; the Life of Bishop Trover, 1776; the Returns of Members of Parliament for the county of Durham; the Foundation Charter of the Cathedral; and the well-known collections for Gateshead, Sherburn, and Greatham hospitals. The ardour of Mr. Allan, as a collector, was not, however,

confined to provincial antiquities; and he purchased at the splendid price of seven hundred pounds, Mr. Tunstall's (of Wycliffe,) noble collection of British birds, antiquities and curiosities; of which the birds alone are said to have cost Mr. Tunstall five thousand. When this museum, augmented by the industry of Mr. Allan, was offered for sale by the trustees under his will, it was purchased by the Literary and Philosophical Society at Newcastle, and now forms a part of the extensive and valuable collection of the Natural History Society. Mr. Allan's most remarkable pursuit, however, was printing for himself and friends, at his private press, various works on antiquarian and biographical topics. He commenced this about 1768; he printed gratis, and from the small number of copies that were taken off, his works have long since become *libri rarissimi*, and most of them are highly valued by collectors. It is asserted, that his proofs never stood in need of correction, himself being not only the compositor, but the distributor of the types when the form was broken up. He never read but with a pin in his hand; and it is said, that he wrote a quire of paper for almost every day he lived;—and though constantly employed, the conversation of others never appeared to interrupt him, and yet he heard all that passed. In 1764, he had an offer of the place of Richmond Herald, and though in earlier life the situation might have been acceptable, it was then refused as incompatible with his established professional connections and future prospects in his native county. On his father's death, in 1790, he retired altogether from the pursuit of the law, and chiefly devoted the leisure of his remaining years in forwarding his favourite scheme of a county history of Durham. A great part of the materials of Hutchinson's valuable work, were drawn from the stores preserved at Blackwell Grange.—*Nichol's Lit. Anec.*

1800 (June 4).—Died, in the streets in Newcastle, William Barron, an eccentric, well known for many years by the name of "*Billy Pea-pudding*."—*Rocal Rec.*

June 8.—A person named Blenkinsop, a joiner of Newcastle, was observed by a woman to ascend the railing which surrounded the shaft of Lawson's main colliery at Byker, near Newcastle, and to precipitate himself feet foremost into it, having previously thrown down his hat. She instantly gave the alarm, and on proper persons descending the pit, the body was found in a shockingly mangled condition by a fall of more than one hundred and thirty-seven fathoms. The following is a copy of a letter found in his pocket addressed to his wife:—"My dear Mary, I hope that God Almighty will so order things, that you will be better without than with your unhappy, unfortunate, and affectionate husband, Thomas Blenkinsop." For some

weeks before, he had shewn strong symptoms of a disordered mind. *Local Papers.*

1800 (June 14).—A man named Wilkinson, a mariner of Lynn, had recourse to begging in Newcastle, and amongst other houses came to that of one Moffatt, a person who took care of horses in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, where the usual application was made; the husband was not at home, but Mrs. Moffatt gave him some bread and cheese and small beer; she then presented him with a hatchet, telling him that she in turn had one request to make, which was, that having been long plagued with her fingers, he would be so kind as to cut them off with that hatchet, laying both hands at the same time upon the table for the purpose. The astonished mendicant drew back and knew not what to do. She however persisted in her demand, he at length was monster enough to strike a blow at her hands with the hatchet, by which three fingers of one hand and two of the other were cut off, and another much injured. The woman was occasionally subject to fits of insanity.—*Ibid.*

June 16.—Died, at Mill-green, near Ravensworth, Mary Brown, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

July 13.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, William Thompson, an eccentric, well known by the name of "*Traveller Billy.*" He was noted for his numerous gormandizing exploits, and his death was occasioned by endeavouring to swallow a shilling, which he feared would be taken from him.—*Ibid.*

July 21.—A horse attached to a gig took fright near the Carpenters' tower, Newcastle, and set off at full gallop down the narrow and very steep passage, called St. James'-lane, which leads from that place to Pandon-bank. The owner was thrown out, and much bruised, and the gig was dashed to pieces. The horse sprang over the wall into Pandon-bank, fell on his feet, and continued his career up the street into the fields, where he was taken uninjured.—*Ibid.*

July 26.—Died, in the city of Durham, Mr. John Farrer, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

August 10.—Died, at Dissington, Ann Wilson, aged 101 years. She not only retained all her faculties to the last, but worked hay that year, and did a variety of domestic employments.—*Ibid.*

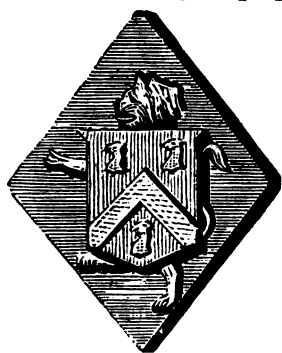
August 25.—Died, at a very advanced age, Mrs. Montague, relict of Edward Montague, esq., of Denton-hall, in the county of Northumberland, grandson to the first earl of Sandwich. She was the daughter of Matthew Robinson, esq., of West Layton, in Yorkshire, and of Horton, in Kent. Mrs. Montague was an excellent scholar, and possessed of a sound judgment and refined taste. Her 'Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakspeare,' in answer to the frivo-



DENTON HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND.

lous objections of Voltaire, must always rank with the best illustrations of the transcendant powers of our great English poets. It is not an elaborate exposition of obscure passages, but a comprehensive survey of the sublimity of his genius, of his profound knowledge of human nature, and of the wonderful resources of his imagination. This essay is, we believe, the only work of which Mrs. Montague publicly avowed herself to be the author; but it is well known that she assisted the first lord Lyttleton, in the composition of his 'Dialogues of the Dead,' and some of the best of those dialogues, by his lordship's own acknowledgement, were the effects of her pen. Lord Lyttleton was very much attached to her; and if he had been free from matrimonial connections, she might have commanded his title and fortune. Mrs. Montague, however, it was imagined, was attached to Pulteney, the famous earl of Bath. She accompanied this nobleman and his lady on a tour through Germany. Mrs. Montague particularly excelled in epistolary composition; and her letters, in point of learning, judgment, and elegance, far exceed those of her namesake, lady Mary Wortley Montague, even supposing that the latter was really the author of the letters attributed to her, which, however, have long been known to be in a great measure fictitious. Mrs. Montague was a near relative of the celebrated Dr. Conyers Middleton, to whose care she devolved in early life, and who superintended her education with parental fondness. It is said that she made so early a display of her tendency to literature, that she had transcribed the whole of the Spectator before she was *eight* years old. Incredible as this story seems to be it has been attested by the best authority, and was always solemnly affirmed by Dr. Monsey, physician of Chelsea college, a particular friend of Dr. Middleton, and of Mrs. Montague. The epistolary correspondence that took place

between Dr. Monsey and Mrs. Montague, during her tour in Germany, and indeed throughout the whole of their intercourse for upward of thirty years, affords proof of uncommon talents, original humour, and acute observation. Dr. Johnson said of Mrs. Montague, that 'she did not make a trade of her wit; but she was a very extraordinary woman; she had a constant stream of conversation, and it was always impregnated; it had always meaning.'—*Univ. Mag.*



1800 (Sep. 28).—Died, at her house, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, aged 78 years, Mrs. Pricilla Atlee, a widow lady of ample fortune, great part of which she expended in acts of piety and charity. Her remains were interred at All Saints' church; they were followed by thirteen coaches, and embalmed by the tears of the poor whom her benevolence had clothed and fed.—*Local Papers.*

At this period a portion of the foundation of the Roman wall was taken up at Byker-hill, for the purpose of repairing the highways.—*Mon. Mag.*

The following is a list of mayors and sheriffs of Newcastle, from the year 1800.—

MAYORS.

- 1800 Archibald Reed,
- 1801 Joseph Forster,
- 1802 Thomas Clennell,
- 1803 Thomas Smith,
- 1804 Richard Clayton,
- 1805 Henry Cramlington,
- 1806 Archibald Reed,
- 1807 Anthony Hood,
- 1808 Joseph Forster,
- 1809 Isaac Cookson, jun.,
- 1810 Thomas Burdon,
- 1811 George Forster,
- 1812 Robert Clayton,
- 1813 Thomas Smith,
- 1814 Benjamin Sorsbie,
- 1815 Henry Cramlington,
- 1816 Sir Thomas Burdon,
- 1817 Robert Clayton,

SHERIFFS.

- Aubone Surtees, jun.
- { Matthew Hedley.
- { Isaac Cookson, jun.
- Dixon Brown.
- Thomas Cookson.
- Benjamin Sorsbie.
- Nathaniel John Winch.
- John Cookson.
- Thomas Burdon.
- { Thomas Burdon, 2nd time.
- { Benj. Sorsbie. 2nd time.
- { George Shadforth.
- Job James Bulman.
- William Smoult Temple.
- Thomas Burdon, jun.
- Thomas Anderson.
- Thomas Smith, jun.
- Richard Brewster.
- Ralph Naters.
- Thomas Logan.
- William Clayton.

MAYORS.

1818 Joseph Forster,
 1819 Archibald Reed,
 1820 George Forster,
 1821 Aubone Surtees,
 1822 Robert Bell,
 1823 William Wright,
 1824 Henry Cramlington,
 1825 George Forster,
 1826 Archibald Reed,
 1827 Benjamin Sorsbie,
 1828 Robert Bell,
 1829 George Shadforth,
 1830 Archibald Reed,
 1831 Archibald Reed,
 1832 John Brandling,
 1833 Henry Bell,
 1834 Jno. Lionel Hood,

SHERIFFS.

Henry Clayton.
 Nicholas Naters.
 John Anderson, jun.
 Alfred Hall.
 Edward Johnson.
 Edward John Jackson.
 George Shadforth, 2nd time.
 John Lionel Hood.
 Alfred Hall, 2nd time.
 Edward Dale.
 John Brandling.
 Henry Reed.
 William Smith.
 Wm. Aubone Surtees.
 Henry Reed.
 Geo. Clayton Atkinson.
 John Mellor Chapman.

Mr. Hood continued in office until the first election of mayor under the Municipal Reform Act.



1800 (Sep. 30).—Died at Benwell, in the ninetieth year of his age, greatly respected, Aubone Surtees,* esq., banker, and father of the corporation of Newcastle, and receiver general of the land tax for the counties of Northumberland and Durham.† Mr. Surtees was sheriff of Newcastle in the memorable year 1744-5,‡ and mayor in 1761 and 1770. He was the son of Edward Surtees, esq. of Hedley-woodhead, by his wife, Frances, daughter and co-heir of William Aubone, esq., alderman of Newcastle, to whom he had been married at Ovingham, 9th April, 1705. This

* The accompanying arms of Surtees, are copied from a stone till recently in the front of a house in the upper part of the market-place in Durham, occupied formerly by Robert Surtees, the alderman of Durham in 1586-90-99, and now by Mr. Shields. This stone has been lately removed by Mr. Shields in rebuilding the house, but it has been let into the wall in the back part of the building, where it now remains.

† By his will dated 3rd Dec., 1783, he appointed his eldest son William Surtees and his "son-in-law, John Scott, esq.," his executors; the latter had however in the mean time arrived at the dignities of Baron Eldon and Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

‡ In a long list of names, appended to a loyal manifesto of the inhabitants of Newcastle, volunteering to take arms, or provide substitutes for the defence of the town, dated Sep. 1745, the following seven appear first: M. Ridley, Nath. Clayton, Ed. Collingwood, Ralph Sowerby, Cuthbert Smith, Aubone Surtees, and Geo. Cuthbertson. Brand's Newcastle, ii. p. 524.

William Aubone, whose name is occasionally spelt Albany, was sheriff of Newcastle in 1679, and mayor in 1684. His will was dated 27th September, 1700, and proved 13th May 1702. He had five daughters and co-heirs: namely, Elizabeth, Jane, Margaret, Frances, and Phillis. Elizabeth married William Fetherstonhaugh, esq., of Stanley and Branspeth, and had a daughter Mary, an heiress, who married first Thomas Wilkinson, esq., of Durham, and gave to the church of St. Mary-le-Bow there, a large silver flaggon, with this inscription on it, "The gift of Elizabeth, daughter of William Aubone, esq., and relict of William Fetherstonhalgh, to her grandchild Mary Wilkinson, and given to the Bow church by Mary Wilkinson, her mother, Anno Dom. 1734." Both Mary Wilkinson the grandchild (who was an only child), and Thomas Wilkinson her father were then dead; and Mary Wilkinson the mother remarried shortly afterwards, sir William Williamson, bart., but had no other issue. She was buried at Branspeth. Of the remaining four daughters of Mr. Aubone, Jane married 13th July, 1699, at All Saints', John Greenwell, esq., a merchant of Newcastle; Frances married Edward Surtees, esq., as stated before; and Phillis, whose marriage licence is dated 5th Feb. 1707, married Robert Greenwell, esq., and was great grandmother of General sir Leonard Greenwell, K. C. B.—*Newcastle Courant*. *Wills of Wm. Aubone, and Aubone Surtees. Surtees's Dur. Local Registers.*

1800 (Oct. 7).—Died, at Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, the countess of Tyrconnell, after an illness of many months. She was the only child of lord Delaval.—*Local Papers*.

Tanfield common, Durham, containing 1040 acres, was divided by act of parliament.—*Surtees*.

The grand stand on the Town-moor, at Newcastle, was this year built.—*Mackenzie*.

This year, as some workmen were levelling a barrow, about a quarter of a mile north of Bowsden, in the parish of Lowick, in Northumberland, they found two urns inverted upon broad flags, and containing bones, which appeared to have been partially burnt. Previous to this another funeral urn was turned up by the plough at Bowsdon Hollins.—*Ibid*.

1801 (Jan. 1).—The Newcastle volunteers were drawn up on the Sandhill, and fired three most excellent volleys in honour of the legislative union between this country and Ireland. On this occasion, the corps, for the first time, mounted the union bearings in their colours, and marched along the bridge to the county of Durham, where, in the presence of the Gateshead volunteers, they expressed their resolution to be UNITED. A similar celebration took place on the part of

the armed association. The colours of all the ships at the quay were hoisted.—*Local Papers.*

1801 (Jan. 24).—A fire broke out in the printing-office occupied by Mr. John Taylor, in Church-street, Berwick, which raged with such violence, that the building (partly covered with thatch) was entirely destroyed, together with the stock and working implements. The fire broke out in a room used for drying printed paper. The loss was estimated at £1000.—*Ibid.*

February 5.—Died, at Newcastle, Margaret Robson, of the Flesh Market, at the advanced age of 103; who, except a weakness in the eyesight, retained her faculties unimpaired, and was never known to have been afflicted with sickness till that which terminated her protracted existence.—*Ibid.*

February 14.—Two soldiers of the 3rd Lancashire militia on furlough, travelling between Durham and Auckland, were so fatigued and distressed by the inclemency of the weather, that one of them on entering a public-house near Butcher-row, and warming himself by the fire, fell backwards from his chair and expired; the other, who was somewhat forward, was found dead under the park wall near Auckland, by a butcher going to Durham market.—*Ibid.*

This month, a dreadful hurricane was experienced at Hexham: many houses were unroofed, and chimneys blown down, both in the town and neighbourhood. One house in particular, occupied by Mr. Newton, a saddler, was materially damaged; a stack of chimnies falling on the roof, penetrated into his bed-chamber, but fortunately he escaped unhurt. The house was completely unroofed, and the floorings broken to pieces.—*Mon. Mag.*

March 14.—Died, in the city of Durham, Mrs. Eleanor Crowe, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

March 26.—The body of an old man, recognized to be that of an old mendicant, and his dog, were found floating in the river Tyne, opposite to the quay, Newcastle. They had been missing for more than a month, and were, dead, as they had lived, attached to each other; the cord by which the blind man had been led by his four-footed friend being wrapped about his wrist.—*Local Papers.*

March 27.—A tumult took place in the corn market at Sunderland, in consequence of the price of wheat, 40s. being demanded by one of the dealers for a boll of that grain. The populace immediately raked the kennels for dirt, with which they besmeared the farmer, who was glad to retreat to the Fountain inn, the windows of which house were assailed with stones and brick-bats, as were also those of the Half moon and Queen's head. Beside the damage sustained in the brittle materials of the houses attacked, a quantity of corn was madly trod-

den under foot, and several of the farmers' carts were hurried into the Wear, one of which was seen floating to the sea the next morning. A justice of the peace, with a few constables, seized upon one of the insurgents, and committed him to the *Cage*, but he was soon liberated by a body of the rioters. Things continued thus till about nine o'clock, when the justice, with an increased body of constables, again made their appearance, and read the riot act on the steps of the George inn, by candle-light, but with so little success, that it was deemed prudent to plant a military guard round his house during the night. In the midst of the affray, a party of the Lancashire militia was called out; they loaded their muskets, but received no orders to fire.—*Local Papers.*

1801 (March 31).—*Wonderful News!!!* The London Courier of this day, and the Edinburgh Courant of April the 2nd, contained accounts of the fall of the steeples of St. Nicholas and All Saints' churches in Newcastle. The paragraph in the Courier was given in the form of an extract of a letter, as follows:—"Newcastle, March 29. I seize the first opportunity to relate to you the unexpected destruction of the spire of St. Nicholas' church in this town, which, for elegance of design, lightness, and durability, had long been classed among the first productions of art in the north. Yesterday evening, about eight o'clock (after experiencing a fine day), we had a smart shower of rain, attended with a strong southerly wind which increased considerably; at a little before nine, some stones fell from the steeple, one of which unfortunately alighted upon a young woman, and bruised her so desperately that her life is in danger. It still continuing to blow strong, fears were entertained for the safety of the steeple; the butchers, who expose their meat for sale near the church, were very alert in removing it; the impending danger was swiftly spread around. I, too, hearing of the dreadful alarm, was repairing to view the cause of it, when I had scarcely left the door, when the upper part of the steeple, and as low as the belfry, was removed from its long wonted situation, covering at some distance from its base, on the north side (called the Flesh-market), with ruins. The most painful part of the catastrophe is, that I, among others, have to lament the loss of seven of our fellow-creatures, who have fallen victims to their too ardent desire of saving their property; four of them were butchers, one of them belonged to Morpeth; five more persons were severely hurt, but I trust not dangerously. A public-house near to the church was nearly levelled with the ground, and several other buildings were materially damaged. It is much to be feared that some more persons have lost their lives, whose curiosity had led them to the spot, as (while I write) some are yet missing. The confusion this disastrous affair has occasioned, I

am at a loss to describe ; numbers of the inhabitants are repairing to view the ruins. The fall of this elegant remains of ancient architecture, which was 194 feet in height, and adorned with thirteen spires, has been attributed to various causes." The Edinburgh Courant of April the 2nd, contained an account of the fall of All Saints' steeple in Newcastle, as follows :—" Newcastle, March 27. The spire of that modern-built church, called All Saints, suddenly fell to the ground,



STEEPLE OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

on the south side, at about half-past 5 o'clock this morning. Happily no lives were lost. The cause of this accident is generally attributed to the impropriety of building the spire so high, it being known, that the tower on which it was built had considerably shrunk." It is only necessary to say, that they were ingenious fabrications, intended for the first of April. The steeples are still standing, and likely to do so.

—*Local Rec.*

1801 (April 16).—The Gazette of this day confirmed the elevation of lord Eldon to the important office of lord high chancellor of Great Britain. The intelligence was received by his fellow townsmen in Newcastle with the most distinguished marks of respect. The bells

in all the churches in that town and Gateshead continued ringing from the arrival of the mail till late in the evening, and numerous groups of his lordship's relatives and friends were formed in various parts of the neighbourhood to celebrate the event.—*Local Rec.*

1801 (April 19).—Died at Walker, near Newcastle, aged 36, Mr. Thomas Barnes, principal viewer and agent at Walker colliery. He was a man of very superior abilities in his profession. A most ingenious and yet simple combination of machinery, for the purpose of regulating the conveyance of waggons, laden with coals, down an inclined plane, from Benwell colliery, on the north side of the Tyne, to the staith at the border of the river, and for bringing up the waggons, when unloaded, by the same power that resisted its projectile impetus in the descent, was, in the year 1798, perfected and brought into use by Mr. Barnes. His remains lie interred in Long Benton churchyard, where a table monument is erected to his memory.—*Ibid.*

April 21.—The decisive victory obtained over the Danish fleet and batteries, by lord Nelson, was celebrated at Newcastle and all the neighbouring towns.—*Local Papers.*

May 2.—About four o'clock on the morning, the iron slitting-mill of Messrs. Hawks and co., near Gateshead, was discovered to be on fire, but by the prompt exertions of the company's workmen, who lived upon the spot, it was readily extinguished.—*Ibid.*

May 6.—The foundation-stone of the new building for the Sunderland Subscription Library was laid by Dr. Brown, who deposited an appropriate inscription, in the presence of several members of the institution. May 11th, 1802, it was opened, when an elegant breakfast and ball were given by the subscribers to a great number of ladies and gentlemen. The gentleman afterwards dined at the Bridge inn.—*Ibid.*

May 7.—Four prisoners escaped from the gaol at Morpeth.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

May 21.—A terrible fire broke out in the village of Harbottle, Northumberland, owing to a foul chimney. Nine cottages and four out-houses were unfortunately destroyed by this conflagration, the progress of which there was no means of stopping, till the poor inhabitants lost nearly the whole of their furniture and other effects.—*Local Papers.*

June 26.—The population returns for Durham and Northumberland were as follow :—

County of Durham.....	160,361
———— Northumberland.....	157,101
———— Newcastle.....	28,366
Parish of Gateshead.....	8,597



TYNE BRIDGE (1800).

1801 (June 30).—The alterations for improving and widening the bridge over the river Tyne, at Newcastle, were begun under the management of the late David Stephenson, architect. It was a bold and successful undertaking.—*Local Papers*.

July 29.—The North York militia marched from Newcastle, and encamped on the coast near Whitburn, in the county of Durham. The camp broke up on the 13th, of October.—*Ibid*.

August 12.—Found dead in his bed, at his lodgings in New-court, Moor-lane, Cripplegate, Mr. Thomas Hastings, long known as an itinerant bookseller and pamphleteer. He was a native of the bishoprick of Durham, and worked for a while as a carpenter in the new buildings at Mary-la-Bonne. Mr. Fox's memorable election for Westminster, when the support of the Devonshire and Portland families awakened every interest in his favour, gave Mr. H. an opportunity to exert himself in the popular cause, and he produced a quarto pamphlet, intituled "The wars of Westminster." This was followed by others in the style of Oriental apologues, and he got considerable sums by hawking them about the town. From this period it is believed he wrought no more at his trade. For many years he had been in the habit of publishing, in different newspapers, on the 12th of August, a voluntary ode on the prince of Wales' birth-day, for which he annually received some small emolument at Carleton-house; but this he had discontinued some time by order. His last publications were, "The Devil in London," 12mo, and "The Regal Rambler, or Lucifer's Travels," 8vo. He was a constant attendant

on the popular Sunday orators; and in his habit very much adorned a clerical appearance. His travelling name was *Dr. Green*; and he was near sixty years of age.—*Gent's Mag.*

1801 (Aug. 19).—As a cartman of Newcastle was employed with four horses in drawing some heavy timber ashore, near the end of Hillgate Gateshead, he threw a brick at the foremost animal to hasten his speed. This cruel act had, however, the contrary effect, for the brick striking the poor animal on the head, he fell back stunned and almost lifeless, upon his fellow-labourers, and being all chained together, a terrible struggle in deep water ensued, which ended not till the four horses were drowned.—*Local Papers.*

September 5.—Two postilions in the service of Mr. Maddocks, of Wooler Haugh-head, were, on the afternoon of this day, employed with four horses in conveying a gentleman's carriage, in which were himself and family, to Holy Island. About nine o'clock in the evening, the postilions set out on their return homewards, with their horses, and shortly after a thick fog came on. Strong apprehensions were in consequence entertained by the islanders for their safety, which, next morning, were found too fatally verified; for soon after day-light, the bodies of the two unfortunate men, and one of the horses, were discovered lifeless on the sands. Another horse, which by some means survived, stood motionless beside its dead companion. The remaining two horses were supposed to have been buried in a quick-sand, many of which abound in this dangerous passage.—*Ibid.*

September 23.—The foundation-stone of the additional building to the Infirmary at Newcastle, was laid by sir M. W. Ridley, bart., one of the vice-presidents of the charity, as representative of his grace the duke of Northumberland, the senior president, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators. Previous to the ceremony of laying the stone, the worthy baronet addressed the company assembled, in a neat speech, in which he pointed out the essential service rendered to numerous unfortunate members of society by this noble institution, and cordially recommended its most ample support. He paid a just tribute of applause to the skill and humanity of the physicians and surgeons attached to the charity, and to the other inferior agents in this great business of benevolence. Sir Matthew concluded by informing his auditory, that the duke of Northumberland, to his other munificent respect for the Infirmary, had added ten guineas, as a present to the workmen employed in the proposed extension. A plate with an inscription was deposited in the stone. The additional building is of brick, the original of stone.—*Ibid.*

October 2.—A line of keels was moored across the river Tyne near Clifford's Fort, and deals laid across them from shore to shore.

After carefully examining this extraordinary highway, lord Mulgrave, accompanied by general Murray, major Heron, and other officers, rode over from the county of Durham to Northumberland. Soon after, lord Mulgrave marched the first regiment of royal Lancashire militia (accompanied by their field pieces and ammunition waggons) from Tynemouth barracks over this bridge to the Herd Sands, when an action took place against a supposed enemy; at the same time several shells were fired from a battery on the north side, which had a fine effect. The troops were then marched back again. The adjacent banks and hills were covered with spectators to witness this novel sight.—*Local Papers*.

1801 (Oct. 15).—On the signing of the preliminaries of peace between Great Britain and the French Republic, a general illumination took place in Newcastle and Gateshead, when many loyal and curious devices in transparency, &c., were exhibited.—*Ibid*.

October 26.—About midnight, some incendiary set fire to the stacks in a yard belonging to Messrs. Reed, of Old Town, in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland, by which diabolical act, seven corn stacks and one hay stack were totally consumed.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—John Scott, convicted of sheep stealing from Mr. S. Dodd, was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence.—*Ibid*.

December 23.—Died, at Low Heaton, near Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Thompson, farmer. Though blind from his infancy, he was allowed to be one of the best judges of cattle in that neighbourhood; and, amongst other singular performances, has been known to make a wheel-barrow complete.—*Ibid*.

December.—About the middle of this month, a gentleman was attacked on the waggon-way, near the Windmill-hills, by three footpads, but escaped by his horse taking fright, and galloping off. It is remarkable, that the horse in his fright leaped down a precipice near nine feet high, without receiving the least injury, and ran, with the utmost speed, for upwards of three miles, before the gentleman was able to stop him.—*Newc. Adv*.

This month, died at Longhorsley, Mr. John Buddler, farmer, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

This year, Framwellgate and Brasside Moors, and Witton Gilbert Common (2,400 acres), all in the county of Durham, were divided. The late bishop (Barrington) had one sixteenth of the soil allotted, and all the mines. This venerable prelate appropriated one third of his whole allotment to the founding of schools within the county of Durham.—*Surtees*.

This year, the bridge spanning the rivulet a few yards to the north of Long Benton church, on the road to Killingworth was built at the

expencc of admiral Roddam of Roddam, which event is recorded on the key stone of the arch. In rainy weather this rivulet was sometimes difficult of passage, and the bridge has been of great use. It is beautifully embowered with trees which line the side of the brook for some distance.—*MS. Col.*

1801.—Blackburn Fell, in the county of Durham, containing by estimation 2009 acres, was divided by act of parliament.—*Surtees.*

1802 (Jan. 7).—Between twelve and one o'clock, part of the wall, to the length of sixty or seventy feet, of All Saints' church-yard, Newcastle, next to Silver-street, and near the middle thereof, fell down with a tremendous crash, to the unspeakable terror of the inhabitants of the houses opposite, many of whom thought it had been an earthquake from the effects it occasioned. The lower part of one house, with the window and door were completely broken in, and several houses above and below the same were materially injured. This wall had long been supposed to be in a dangerous state, having perceptibly leaned and shrunk from the church-yard, evidently being pressed by an uncommon weight of soil on that side, while there was no support at all on the other towards the street, where it was near twenty feet high; it was likewise composed of massy stones, which in their fall were accompanied by a great body of earth from the side of the bank, opening to view several coffins, and innumerable quantities of human bones. It was a fortunate circumstance that the above accident took place at a late hour of the night. The ruins presented a very awful appearance.—*Mon. Mag.*

February.—Died, at Whitworth, Mr. Taylor, commonly known by the name of the Whitworth Doctor, and whose celebrity (it is well known) was so great as to procure him the honour of attending the late bishop of Durham, brother to lord Thurlow. The history of this man and his brother, who was his partner, is worthy of notice. By profession they were farriers, and to the last, if both a two legged and a four legged patient were presented, at the same time, the doctor always preferred the four legged one. Partly from singularity of manners and partly from success in curing, the practice of the two brothers was immense, as may be well imagined from the orders they gave to the druggist; they dealt principally with Embank and Walls, of York, and a ton of Glauber's salts, with other articles in proportion, was their usual order. On a Sunday morning the doctor used to bleed gratis. The patients were seated, often to the number of a hundred, on benches round a room, where troughs were placed to receive the blood. One of the doctors then went and tied up the arm of each patient, and was immediately followed by the other, who opened the vein. So singular a scene may be much easier conceived

than described. In their medical practice, the nice formality of scales and weights was totally unknown; all was *rule of thumb*. An example of this practice may serve to elucidate their claim to celebrity. Being sent for to a patient, who was in the last stage of a consumption, the learned Dr. prescribed *a leg of mutton to be boiled, secundum artem*, into a very strong broth, a quart of which was to be drank at proper intervals. What might have been the success of such a medicament, is difficult to say, as the patient died before the first dose was got down. As bone-setters, and likewise in the treatment of scrophulous and cutaneous disorders, they were remarkably skilful, and perhaps to their real merit in this, and the cheapness of their medicines, they were chiefly indebted for their great local fame.—*Mon. Mag.*

1802 (February).—A medallion was presented to Mr. H. Greathead, of South Shields, by the Royal Humane Society for his very ingenious and important improvement on boats, for the preservation of the lives of shipwrecked mariners and passengers. The Society of Arts, also presented to the same gentleman, their gold medal, accompanied with a purse of fifty guineas, as a testimony of the sense they entertain of the extraordinary benefits which have resulted to the country from his truly useful invention.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—Being the day appointed by the magistrates of Newcastle, for proclaiming the peace between Great Britain and the French Republic, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, which continued at intervals during the day. At noon the Newcastle volunteers, the Armed association, and the Gateshead volunteers, with their respective bands, were under arms, on the Sandhill, to receive the members of the corporation with the regalia, attended by the officers of the police, eighteen free porters, carrying each an ancient battle axe, sixteen with javelins, and sixteen with halberts. The civil authorities were surrounded by the military to keep off the crowd, and the sound of trumpets announced that his majesty's proclamation was about to be read. This was done by Mr. Richard Hill, the town-marshal; the town sword (which had been borne unsheathed) was now sheathed, after which the procession moved to the west end of Mosley-street, and thence to the White Cross in Newgate-street, at each of which places the proclamation was read.—*Local Papers.*

June 1.—On this day was published in Newcastle, by Mr. John Mitchell, the first number of the Tyne Mercury and Northumberland and Durham Gazette. It is at present published by his son and successor, Mr. William Andrew Mitchell, the editor.—*Local Rec.*

June 15.—The Newcastle Loyal Volunteers, commanded by col. Clennell, were disembodied.—*J. Bell's Col.*



1802 (June 29).—Died, at his house in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, Charles Brandling, esq., of Gosforth, high sheriff of Northumberland in 1781, and representative in parliament for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1784, 1790, and 1796. He married, in 1756, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Thompson, esq., of Shotton, county palatine. In 1797, Mr. Brandling resigned his seat in parliament, and was succeeded by his son Charles John Brandling, esq.—

Mackenzie's Northd., &c.

The commencement of the demolition of Pilgrim-street Gate, part of the town wall of Newcastle, took place on the 30th of June this year. It had been long complained of; frequent instances having occurred, where it was found necessary to take off part of the loading of a waggon, before a passage through the gate could be effected. A cannon ball was found in the wall, weighing more than twenty-two pounds; allowing for waste, this had, in all probability, been a twenty-four pounder, and thrown during the siege of the town in 1644. In 1659, and again in 1716, this gate was repaired and beautified at the expense of the company of Joiners, whose hall or meeting-room was above the gate-way. On the night of the 1st of August, 1714, the gate was illuminated, in honour of the accession of George I. when the company spent in candles eighteen-pence. In August 1726, the meeting-room was discovered to be on fire; but immediate attendance was given by the members of the company, and



PILGRIM STREET GATE, SOUTH FRONT (1800).

other persons, who together, succeeded in extinguishing the flames, without any material injury having been effected. In 1771 convenient foot passages were opened on each side of the archway.—*Records of the Joiners' Comp. &c.*

1802 (June).—The French emigrant clergy, who had been resident in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, since October 1796, took their departure for their own country. They left behind them a most grateful address to their benefactors, written in their native language.—*Local Papers.*

July 22.—Died, in Hillgate, Gateshead, Alice Carr, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 27.—The armed association of Newcastle, commanded by sir M. W. Ridley, bart., were disbanded.—*J. Bell's Col.*



July.—A pair of Sandwich Terns, male and female were shot on the Farn Islands, on the coast of Northumberland. These birds, as well as specimens of nearly the whole of the different kinds which breed on the Farn Isles, were, after much trouble and risk, shot there,

expressly for the use of Bewick in the illustration of his work on British Birds, by major Shore, and lieutenant Kenny Forster Gibson, of the 4th Dragoons.—*Bewick.*

August 23.—John Carleton, was executed at Durham, for firing a loaded pistol at Mr. Thomas Greenwell, grocer, in Gateshead, whose warehouses he and other accomplices were attempting forcibly to enter. During Carleton's trial, the prisoner's council contended that there was not an intention to murder, as there was not a ball in the pistol; a bullet, however, was found in a niche in the wall of the shop, the week after his execution.—*J. Bell's Col.*

September 2.—A life-boat, built by Mr. Greathead, of South Shields, arrived at Bamborough castle, under the care of the Mermaid cutter, captain Smith, and was received with a discharge of cannon from the battery, and the greatest joy of the people.—*Local Papers.*

September 3.—The owners of Percy Main colliery, accompanied by a great number of the neighbouring gentlemen, and the workmen belonging to the colliery, walked in procession with the first waggon-load of coals from the winning to the staith at Whitehill point upon the river Tyne. On their arrival at the staith, the waggon was taken to the spout, where a ship was in readiness to receive the coal, into which they were immediately discharged. At the instant of the coal

being delivered, a salute of artillery was fired, and the band played "*The Keel Row*." The company then formed a circle, when "Success to Percy Main" was drunk with three times three cheers. The procession then returned to the winning, where a plentiful dinner was prepared, which the company, consisting of 150 gentlemen, sat down to, at one table, under a covering erected for the purpose. The workmen were also plentifully regaled with beef and plum pudding, and they amused themselves with music and dancing till a late hour.—*Ibid.*

1802 (Nov. 15).—About eleven o'clock at night, an alarming fire was discovered to have broken out in the steam-engine and boring mill, at the extensive iron works of Messrs. Hawks and Co., near Gateshead. From the violence of the flames, great fears were entertained that the whole premises would have been consumed, but from the calmness of the evening, and the strenuous exertions of the firemen, aided by the public, their ravages were confined to the building first attacked.—*Local Papers.*

November 16.—The Literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle, instituted a perpetual lectureship on Natural and Experimental Philosophy, and appointed the rev. William Turner, lecturer, to the endowment of which, the duke of Northumberland subscribed £200., and the bishop of Durham £100. The introductory lecture was delivered on the above day.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Durham, in the 88th year of his age, Mr. Robert Harrison, a profound mathematician. From his knowledge in mathematics, he was appointed, Jan. the 14th, 1757, master of the Trinity-house school in Newcastle, where he also took private pupils; of whom, among others of great respectability, were the late earl of Eldon, and his brother, lord Stowell. He was acquainted with almost every known language, and possessed a most acute memory. Having resigned his situation at Newcastle, he retired to Durham, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Harrison is described as dressing very neat, a dark blue coat without a collar, but not exactly a century old in fashion. When he walked out, he wore a triangular hat, and carried a cane with a large amber head to it. He suffered his beard to grow for some time before his death. He was generally known in Durham and Newcastle, by the denomination of *Philosopher Harrison*, which he probably derived from his having in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Thompson, given lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy.—*Local Rec.*

December 7.—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the premises at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, occupied as a pottery by Messrs. Yellowley and Co., which entirely consumed the same, and the whole of the stock on hand.—*Ibid.*

1803.—This year a dispensary was established at North Shields under the patronage of his grace the duke of Northumberland. It is supported by bequests, donations and annual subscriptions.—*Ibid.*

Several curious brass spear heads were this year found in making a ditch, near Cheeseburn grange, in Northumberland.—*Mackenzie.*

The register of births and baptisms belonging to Clavering-place chapel (United Associate Synod), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, commences in 1802.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Jan. 4.—Died, in Union-street, Newcastle, aged 77, Mr. Luke Long, of eccentric memory; better known to his fellow townsmen by the appellation of Dr. Long. At an early period of his life, he was employed as a surgeon or a surgeon's mate, in different ships on the coast of Africa; and hence his *exploits, adventures, and hair-breadth escapes*, became, ever after, during life, the common topics of his, if not prolix, yet certainly *unlaconic*, conversation, and, particularly so, on convivial occasions. Having early acquired, by happily copying the sages of his profession, a sort of dignified countenance, and a solemn, pompous demeanour, accompanied with a venerable mode of address, he was frequently admitted to the company of men much above his own rank and station in life; and being a jovial member of the festive board, it was no uncommon thing to see him placed in a respectable seat at corporation dinners, and other distinguished festivals. The flashes of his wit, on these occasions, being never spoiled with too much polishing, were happily calculated to create the animated pun, and by exciting merriment, "to set the table in a roar." His *metrical* compositions, which, to say the truth, were never too much loaded with erudition, will, doubtless, be long remembered by visitors at the mansion-house, as samples of the doctor's humour; and the songs which were prepared for such occasions, and sung by him with wonderful animation, and with no small share of sapient glee, will, no doubt, be quoted as proofs of his *good-natured genius*. In the early part of his life, after he became stationary in Newcastle, he was for some time employed as an apothecary in the town; but the various improvements that had taken place in the science having greatly outrun his former studies and early acquirements, the business gradually dwindled into insignificance, and he was afterwards obliged to stock his shop with other articles beside those of Daffy's elixir, Anderson's pills, &c. The singular medley he thus associated, would form a curious catalogue, containing, like the village barber's shop:

"Pomatum pots, rollers, and musty perfumes,
Remnants of stumps, a broken case of lancets;
Leaches and genuine corn-salve, made a shew."

Beside a good assortment of ribbons, tapes, blacking-balls and brushes. The doctor had something to relate of every person and subject; but every thing new was almost sure to meet his reprehension, and the disappointments and failures of others, which he pretended to have foreseen, the severity of his sarcasms. He had a peculiar fluency in telling stories; and, on the whole we may apply to this eccentric character, the following parody on our great dramatic poet:

“Noting his flippancy, to myself I said,
And if a man did wish to hear a tale,
Secrets of families, or affairs of state,
Here lived an oily tongue would tell it him.” *Mon. Mag.*

1803 (Jan. 8, 9, 10).—There was a tremendous storm, with the wind at east, which did a great deal of damage to the shipping on the coast of Durham and Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

February.—Died, at Morpeth, aged 102, Mrs. A. Dixon, inn-keeper.—*Chatto's Col.*

Died, at the Low Lights, North Shields, Mr. Ab. Brown, chimney-sweeper and razor-grinder; in which humble occupations, by management and economy, he was enabled to accumulate the sum of one thousand pounds.—*Ibid.*

February 8.—A subscription library was founded at South Shields, supported by annual subscriptions.—*Surtees*

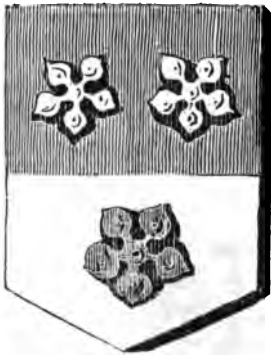
February.—Died, at Berwick, Margaret Cleghorn, an old woman, who for some years past had been chargeable to the parish. She had made a will, directing in what manner she was to be buried, and bequeathing, in the same, sundry legacies to her friends, but the overseers of the poor immediately seized all her effects, to indemnify the parish for expences. Besides a considerable sum of money she had reserved, a vast wardrobe of clothes, among which were near three hundred night and day caps; the very papers she had got with groceries were all carefully packed up in boxes, which all sold well, as the buyers were in eager expectation of finding some hidden treasures therein.—*Chatto's Col.*

March 13.—Died, at North Shields, Mr. William Morris, shipwright, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers.*

March 14.—An impress by the serjeants at mace and constables, broke out in Newcastle, in consequence of the re-commencement of hostilities by the French.—*Ibid.*

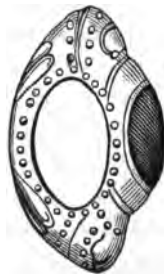
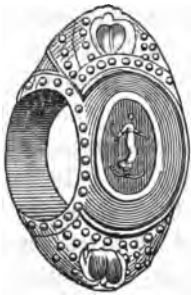
March.—Died, at Birtley, Mr. George Robson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

April.—Died, at Shotton, in the county of Durham, aged upwards of 105 years, Mrs. Christian Wallace. She had resided in the village nearly the whole of the above-mentioned period.—*Gent's Mag.*



1803 (April).—Died, in the Island of Trinidad, Henry Swinburne, esq., youngest son of the late sir John Swinburne, bart., of Capheaton, in Northumberland. This accomplished scholar and celebrated traveller, was educated at Scorton school in Yorkshire; and afterwards studied at Paris, Bourdeaux, and in the Royal Academy at Turin. He made the usual tour in Italy; and, in 1774, travelled with his lady on the Continent, for the express purpose of indulging their taste for antiquities and the fine arts. He spent six years in France, Spain, Italy, and Germany; formed an intimacy with some of the most celebrated literati of those countries, and received some signal marks of esteem from the sovereigns of the courts he visited. On his return to England, he retired to his seat at Hamsterley. The learning and ingenuity of Mr. Swinburne are well known. The warmth and animation of his descriptions discover an imagination highly susceptible of every bounty of nature or art; and, if he had a fault, it was the being too apt to relinquish simplicity for profusion of ornament:—but, from this fault, what traveller is free? He was the first who brought us intimately acquainted with Spain, and the arts and monuments of its ancient inhabitants—*Surtees*.

April 5.—A gold ring was found in harrowing a piece of ground near Halton Chesters. It weighed 8 dwts, 15 grs., was set with a small blue stone slightly injured, and afterwards worn by lady Blackett of Matfen. The following are representations of the different sides of the ring.—*Arch. Æl.*



CHAPTER II.



IED, on the 9th of May 1803, sir Robert Chambers, knt., several years Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal. He was born in the year 1737, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, being the eldest son of Mr. Robert Chambers, a respectable attorney of that town. He was educated at the Free Grammar school there, and afterwards was sent to Oxford, without any other preparation.

He went at an early age, but his abilities soon rendered him conspicuous; and in July, 1754, he was chosen an exhibitor of Lincoln college. He afterwards became a Fellow of University college, and in January, 1762, he was elected, by the University, Vinerian professor of the Laws of England; a public testimony to his abilities of the most unequivocal nature. In 1766, the earl of Lichfield, then chancellor of Oxford, gave him the appointment of principal of the New Inn Hall; which office he continued to hold through life. He was now advancing honourably in the practice of the Law, and was employed in many remarkable causes, in which his professional abilities were conspicuously evinced. It is a strong proof that his talents were highly estimated at an early period, that in 1768 he was offered the appointment of Attorney-general of Jamaica; this however, he thought proper to decline. His age was then only 31. From this time he continued in the career of his profession, and of his academical labours, till, in 1773, another situation of public trust was proposed to him, which he was more easily induced to accept. This was the appointment of Second Judge in the Supreme court of Judicature in Bengal, then first established;

Mr. Impey, afterwards sir Elijah, being chief Justice. In India Mr. Chambers had a younger brother, Mr. William Chambers, afterwards highly distinguished for his unrivalled knowledge of the Malabar language, and other dialects of Hindostan ; and the prospect of being re-united to his relation certainly was not forgotten among the attractions of this new offer. Immediately before his departure for the East Indies, Mr. Chambers married Miss Wilton, the only daughter of the celebrated statuary of that name ; and his mother, Mrs. Chambers, a woman of uncommon virtues and accomplishments, undertook the voyage with them, and continued an inmate of their family till her death, which happened in 1782. They sailed for India in April, 1774. The honour of knighthood was not conferred at the time of his appointment, but, within four years after, was sent out to him, unsolicited, as a mark of royal approbation. How well his original nomination, and his subsequent advancement to the office of Chief Justice, were deserved, it is not necessary here to demonstrate. Sir R. Chambers was steady in pursuing the course which his judgement approved ; and, in all the struggles that arose, no opponent ever ventured to insinuate a doubt of his integrity. The unfortunate loss of the Grosvenor East Indiaman, in the year 1782, is but too well remembered by many families. In this public calamity, the private share of sir R. Chambers was disproportionately heavy. He lost his eldest son, a promising youth, then going to England for education ; and the uncertain circumstances of the case left to the imagination the most dreadful materials for conjecture. On the resignation of sir E. Impey, in 1791, sir R. Chambers was advanced to the office of Chief Justice ; and in 1797 he became President of the Asiatic Society. At length, after having remained in India twenty-five years, he returned to England in 1799, to enjoy his well earned leisure, and the society of his friends ; but, alas ! not to feel the blessings of good health. His constitution, being delicate, had probably been supported by the warmth of India ; and he manifestly shrunk under the rigour of that northern climate, from which he had been so long removed. In the autumn of 1802, his lungs were so much affected that he was advised to winter in the milder air of France, and he had intended to have proceeded to the southern provinces ; but the season was too far advanced, and he remained at Paris, where, after a partial recovery, he had an attack of a paralytic nature, which terminated his existence. The body was brought to England by his widow, and on the 23rd of May was interred in the Temple church. Sir Robert had been a bencher of the middle Temple, and his funeral was attended by a considerable number of that society, and a respectable selection of private friends.—*Chatto's Col.*

1803 (May 10).—A great number of keelmen were impressed at Shields, by which the coal trade was much impeded. After being inspected, fifty-three were retained and sent on board the navy; but on the 16th of June following, they returned, government having agreed to take substitutes, and on the 30th, eighty men, raised to serve as such, went down the river Tyne in a keel, to be shipped for the Nore. These were furnished to government at the joint expense of the keelmen, to prevent them being liable to the impress.—*Local Papers*.

June 9.—Died suddenly, at the Wheat-sheaf inn, near the Virginia water, in Windsor Great Park, aged 46, Joseph Richardson, esq., M. P. for Newport, and one of the proprietors of Drury-lane theatre. This gentleman was a native of Hexham in Northumberland. In the year 1774, he entered at St. John's college, Cambridge, where he acquired a fund of sound learning, embellished with a correct taste. He entered himself a student of the middle Temple in 1779, and was called to the bar in 1784. While at college he highly distinguished himself by the elegance, beauty, and vigour of his compositions, both in prose and poetry. Indeed a love of the Muses very early in life took possession of his mind, and often interfered with the austerer duties of his study. The works in which he was known to have a principal part were the Rolliad, and the Probationary Odes, in the composition of which his talents were conspicuous. The comedy of The Fugitive is also creditable to his dramatic genius. Mr. Richardson left a widow and four daughters to lament his loss. On the 13th, his body was interred in Egham church-yard.—*Chatto's Col.*

June 26.—Three tents were burnt on the Town-moor, Newcastle; supposed to have been the act of an incendiary.—*Local Papers*.

June 30.—The banking-house of Messrs. Surtees and Burdon, in Newcastle, stopped payment. This to a great number of people was a most disastrous circumstance.—*Ibid.*

August 2.—The committee who received the enrolment of members to serve in the Newcastle Loyal Associated Volunteer Infantry, finished their sittings, after having sworn in upwards of 1,200 men, who had come forward to serve their country at that important crisis. On the following day, a numerous and respectable meeting of the members was held in the merchant's court, when the following gentlemen were nominated and approved of as officers:—Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., colonel; M. W. Ridley, esq., 1st lieutenant colonel; Anthony Hood, esq., 2nd lieutenant colonel; John Hodgson, of Elswick, esq., 1st major; William Grieve, esq., 2nd major; William Ingham, esq., to be surgeon; Isaac Cookson, jun., C. D. Purvis, Malin Sorsbie, Robert Clayton, John Brumell, Thomas Hopper, Robert Yel-

lowley, Thomas Clarke, Thomas Smith, and Dixon Brown, esqrs., to be captains; John Gray, William Lloyd, W. R. Calender, William Boyd, Richard Rogerson, Robert Pinkney, Robert Pearson, Samuel Walker Parker, William Cuthbert, and Benjamin Sorsbie, esqrs., to be 1st lieutenants; William Abbs, William Wright, Job James Bulman, John Hall, Thomas Rankin, Thomas Smith, jun., William John Grey, William Fisher, Taylor Winship, and William Peters, esqrs., to be 2nd lieutenants; William Dixon, gentleman, to be adjutant; Mr. Edward Milburn and Mr. William Heaton, to be serjeant majors. August 24th, the members, consisting of ten companies, were marched from their respective parades to the Town-moor, to receive their colonel sir M. W. Ridley, bart. The corps was then formed three deep, and though without uniforms or accoutrements, made a formidable appearance. On the arrival of the worthy colonel in front of the line, he was most cordially cheered with three times three by the whole corps. About the middle of October they received their muskets, and on the 24th, had a general muster for the first time under arms, in a field called Blackett's field, outside of the Town-wall near the Postern-gate. Their uniform consisted of a scarlet jacket, with blue facings, cap and feather, white breeches, and full black gaiters. November 22nd, the corps marched to the Town-moor, for the double purpose of receiving their colours and being inspected by colonel Blakeney, inspecting field-officer. Sir M. W. Ridley, on delivering the colours to the ensigns, made a very appropriate speech; the inspection then commenced, after which the corps went through the various evolutions with great precision. The colonel, after the business of the day was over, presented each company with ten guineas, to make merry with on the occasion. There was also a grand dinner at Loftus's. During the inspection, the Newcastle volunteers kept the ground.—*Local Papers*.

1803 (Aug. 9).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. William Charnley, aged 76 years, bookseller, and father of the trade in that town; highly and justly respected for his literary and professional talents, his strict integrity and moral worth. His view of human nature was enlarged and liberal, and the natural dignity of his mind was tempered with the purest urbanity. A portrait of Mr. Charnley was engraved for private distribution.—*Local Rec*.

August 15.—John Moses was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for stealing a quantity of linen-drapery goods in the shop of Benjamin Jackson, of Barnardcastle.—*Ibid*.

About this period workmen commenced the erection of the fever-house, or house of recovery, Newcastle. It consists of three stories, and the interior possesses all the necessary qualities for

such an important purpose. The building was completed and opened for the reception of patients in 1804. It is situated without the Town-wall, on the west side of the town, and in a large and airy piece of ground called the Warden's close, about twenty yards to the west of Herber tower. The site was liberally granted by the corporation.—*Mon. Mag.*



HERBER TOWER (1826).

1803 (Sep. 3).—The foundation stone of an elegant new bridge of cast iron was laid on the north side of the river Tees, at Egglescliffe, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers.*

September 23.—Died, Mr. Joseph Ritson, a native of Stockton, and born Oct. 2d, 1752. Mr. Ritson was bred to the law, but a passion for ancient English poetry, rhyme, and ballad, induced him to become an indefatigable collector in this way. At one period Ritson possessed a competent property, but it was amongst his anomalies, that, though he detested gambling, he had ventured to speculate with nearly his whole fortune in the funds, and the revulsion consequent on the peace of Amiens, swept away most of his capital. Under these circumstances he sold a portion of his valuable library by auction, and the remainder was reluctantly disposed of by his nephew at Leigh and Sotheby's in December, 1803. He abstained on a principle of humanity from the use of animal food, and published a book in defence of his opinion. He had a considerable turn for topography, and assisted both Brewster and Hutchinson in their respective histories. Many of Ritson's works (some of which were printed at Newcastle), are become extremely rare. He died in a deplorable state of

mental derangement. There is no good portrait of Ritson, only a caricature, a print, and a slight etching, (in the literary anecdotes), both which seem to be taken from the caricature; and a black profile prefixed to his memoirs.—*Surtees*.

1803 (Sep. 25).—An explosion took place at Wallsend colliery, by which event, thirteen individuals lost their lives.—*Local Papers*.

September 26.—Being the day appointed by Mr. Simon Temple, to celebrate the opening of his colliery at Jarrow, the fineness of the day, and the general invitation, drew many thousands of people to witness the passage of the coals to the ship, Fox, which lay, highly decorated with colours, to receive them. Early on the morning, the South Shields bells announced the intended feast, and all the ships in the harbour immediately hoisted their colours. About ten o'clock Mr. Temple arrived at South Shields, to proceed with the shipwrights, attended by the bands of the Northumberland and Anglesea militias, to the place of festivity, celebrated in early time as the birth place of Bede. Immediately on his arrival in the market place, the shipwrights took the horses out of the carriage, and drew him, attended by his father and three sons to Jarrow, with flags flying and music playing. On Jarrow bridge he was met by a large assemblage of gentlemen, headed by sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., who greeted him on his arrival. Their first step was to lay the foundation stone of a school, for the education of the poor children of the various workmen employed by Mr. Temple. This was done by his eldest son, Mr. William Temple, amidst the plaudits of the whole company. They next proceeded to lay the foundation stone of a building intended as a seminary for the instruction of poor females in offices more suited to their sex than several of their employments in the north of England. These commendable acts being finished, the procession moved to another part of the estate, to lay the foundation stone of a fever-house and hospital, for such of the families employed in Mr. Temple's various works as might require these comforts. By this time, several of the clergy of the cathedral of Durham, the corporation barge of Newcastle, with several members of that body, and a great number of the most respectable gentlemen from all parts of the country, had arrived. They now proceeded to the more immediate cause of their meeting, and the waggons being loaded with coals, were taken to the ship, under the banners of the South Shields loyal volunteers, which were then unfurled, and a general discharge of artillery, the music playing "*Weel may the Keel Row*," and other appropriate tunes. It was supposed that not less than ten thousand people were assembled on this occasion. In a tent prepared for their entertainment, about three hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner.

The workmen, in number five hundred, dined at a long table without. After dinner, a great number of loyal and appropriate toasts were given.—*Local Papers*.

1803 (Oct. 4).—The Newcastle volunteers, commanded by lieutenant colonel Clennell, assembled near the Forth to receive their colours, which had been deposited in the mansion-house at their previous disembodiment. Thomas Smith, esq., mayor, with a suitable speech, presented the colours to the commander, who addressed the corps in a handsome and appropriate speech, which was received with three times three cheers. The corps went through their evolutions and firings with great precision. The peculiarity of the uniform (very dark green) worn by the company of riflemen attached to the corps, attracted very general attention. Part of the Gateshead volunteers attended to keep the ground. The corps afterwards dined at Loftus's and spent the day with social mirth.—*Ibid*.

October 25.—The Newcastle waggon train, consisting of upwards of one hundred and fifty waggons and carts, with their horses and drivers, enrolled for the service of government in case of an invasion were mustered upon the Town-moor for inspection. The drivers were dressed in uniform frocks, and the whole had a good appearance.—*Ibid*.

November 6.—The Durham armed association was again called out on the re-commencement of the war, and had their first parade on the above day. Colonel Fenwick resigned the command from ill health in 1806, and was succeeded by Edward Shipperdson, esq. The corps remained embodied till March 24th, 1813, when they had their last parade, and extended their services to the local militia.—*Ibid*.

November 16.—The Gateshead volunteers, commanded by Cuthbert Ellison, of Hebburn, esq., received their colours. About half-past twelve o'clock they arrived on the ground, which was previously kept by the Newcastle volunteers, and formed into line opposite to a stand which had been erected for the accommodation of the ladies. As soon as Mrs. Ellison who presented the colours, had taken her station, supported on the right by the right honourable the earl of Strathmore, and on the left by John Carr, esq., she was received with a general salute; the ceremony then commenced by the regiment going through the manual exercise; after which, three sides of a square were formed by the corps, the stand in front making the fourth. Mrs. Ellison then stepped forward, and after making some appropriate remarks, delivered the colours into the hands of colonel Ellison, who replied in a strain of manly eloquence; he afterwards addressed the corps, and delivered the standards in charge of the ensigns. After going through various manœuvres, the whole was concluded with

a general salute, the colours were then taken to Mr. Bertram's, the Goat inn, Gateshead, where they were deposited.—*Local Papers.*

1803 (Nov. 29).—Died, at North Shields, Ann Turner, at the very advanced age of 105 years. She retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

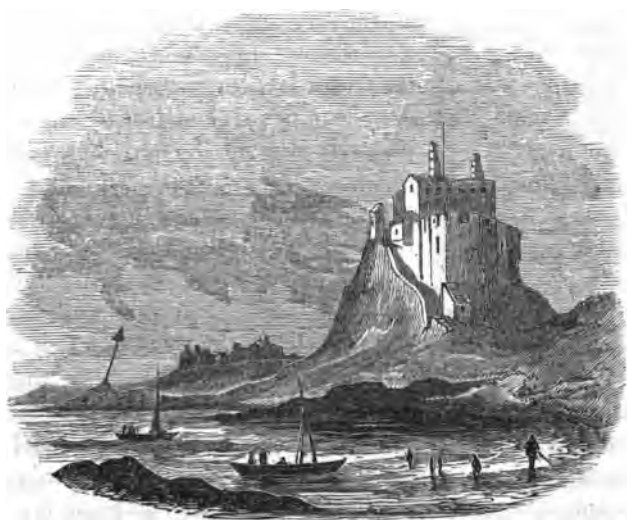
December 20.—About five o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the Tyne steam-engine paper mill, at Felling-shore, near Gateshead, belonging to Messrs. Hawks and co., which, in a short time, entirely consumed the stock, machinery and buildings.—*Ibid.*

December 26.—A volunteer corps of artificers for Newcastle, under the command of David Stephenson, esq., architect, took the oath of allegiance in the mayor's chamber. Their uniform was a blue jacket and trowsers, and a round hat.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—Died, in the Infirmary, Newcastle, Thomas Houston, brass founder, aged 26 years. He was the author of "*The Race to Hell*," "*Progress of Madness*," "*Poems, Odes, and Songs*," "*The Term-day, or, the Unjust Steward*," a comedy, and various other pieces of considerable merit. He was interred in the burial ground belonging to the Infirmary.—*Ibid.*

The chapel at Whitworth, in the county of Durham, was rebuilt about this period.—*Ibid.*

A life-boat, of the largest dimensions, was this year established at Holy Island, in a situation peculiarly favourable to its immediate use, in cases of shipwreck on the neighbouring coasts. This valuable instrument of preservation was presented by the worthy and beneficent



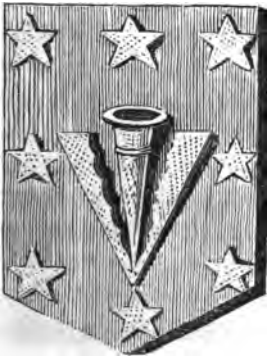
HOLY ISLAND.

trustees of lord Crewe's charity, at Bamborough castle. Mr. Selby gave his ready assistance in forwarding this work of humanity, by granting a piece of ground, and the winning of stones, for the erection of a boat-house.—*Univ. Mag.*

1803.—The light-house near the end of the north pier at Sunderland was erected this year, by Mr. Pickernel, engineer. It is of freestone, sixty-eight feet in height, from the pier to the under side of the cap. It is an elegant octagonal column, lighted by nine argand lamps placed in reflectors: the diameter of each reflector is eighteen inches.—*Surtees.*

1804 (Jan. 7).—About two o'clock on the morning (Sunday), the cotton manufactory belonging to Messrs. Salvin, near St. Oswald's church, in the city of Durham, was discovered to be on fire in the upper stories; the alarm was instantly given, and the Durham volunteers were quickly on the spot. The inhabitants also assembled in great numbers to give assistance, and although the fire engines had speedily arrived from the different churches, yet the fire continued to gain ground, and at about three o'clock the roof fell in. The flames were now seen for miles around the city, as if bursting from a burning crater. Towards daylight the conflagration abated, but the building was reduced to a shell. The south front fell in at eight o'clock, and other portions gave way in the course of the day.—*Local Papers.*

January 18.—A dreadful fire broke out in the brewery at the Lowlights, North Shields, belonging to Henry Coward, esq. It was first discovered about four o'clock in the morning, and was not got under until considerable damage was done.—*Ibid.*



January 23.—Died, at Cowpen, Marlow Sidney, esq., in the 99th year of his age, who was a remarkably eccentric character. For many years he was excessively tortured with the gravel, and latterly passed a number of stones, on an average from six to ten in the course of a day, several larger than a pea, and what is surprising, he felt not the least pain. His antipathy to medical men was so great, that even in his last illness he would not suffer any to attend him. He was very partial to the

dress and company of the fair sex, but never had the pleasure of tying the hymenial knot. When 70 years of age, his thirst for innocent and childish amusements was such, that he went to the dancing school, where he regularly attended, and appeared highly gratified with his youthful associates. About two years before his

death, a sister, who resided in London, was at the trouble of paying him a visit, and during her short stay he generously indeed *allowed her milk and lodgings*, but for bread, and other necessaries, she was obliged to provide. When he had any money to send to his banker in Newcastle, three of his most trusty servants were well mounted, and armed with pistols, his principal man rode in the middle, with the cash, and the other two at proper distances from him, in the van and rear; in this defensive manner they rode along, the better to resist any attack that might be attempted by daring highwaymen.—*Univ. Mag.*

1804 (Feb. 1).—In the evening of this day, a considerable degree of bustle and confusion prevailed in Newcastle on the subject of invasion. The military, both horse and foot, were all in motion, and the drums of the Staffordshire militia beat to arms. There were strong musters of the Newcastle loyal armed association and volunteers, of the Gateshead volunteers, Usworth legion, and Derwent rangers. An officer's guard was mounted at the head quarters of the Gateshead volunteers during the night, in order to assemble the regiment as soon as possible, should any further particulars transpire relative to the nature of the alarm. In short, such a display of zeal and ardour on behalf of the country was manifested by all descriptions of men, as could not be surpassed. On the following morning, the same cause excited a considerable degree of alarm at Durham. Major Mowbray (notwithstanding several of his men were at a few miles distance) despatched messengers, and had his whole corps in readiness to assemble on the Palace-green in less than two hours, fully equipped for the field. The North Durham corps, commanded by sir Carnaby Haggerstone, were in Berwick all Wednesday. On Thursday, the guards were all doubled, and the volunteers put upon garrison duty; orders were also issued by the mayor, that no person was to be seen on the ramparts after eight o'clock in the evening. Report amused the public during the whole of Wednesday, with a variety of vague and improbable rumours; but the most likely on Thursday was, that the whole had originated in a mistake, of taking the burning of whins on Lammer-muir hills for the lighting of the signals. To prevent a similar mistake, the corporation of Newcastle published the following notice:—"In order to prevent any Alarm in the Country, Notice is hereby given, that the under-mentioned Signals, intended to be made use of in case of invasion, *but only in the Event of the General Officer, commanding his Majesty's Forces in this District, giving Orders for the Removal of the Inhabitants and Stock of this Town*, will be made for the Information of the Inhabitants, on Tuesday the 20th of March instant, between twelve and one o'clock at noon, and between eight and nine o'clock in the even-

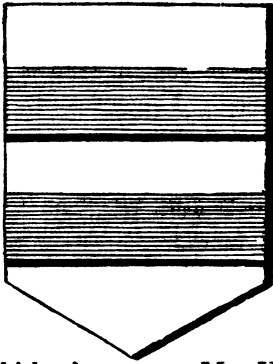
ing; and that such Signals will be a Red Flag by Day, and a Light by Night, hoisted at the following places; (viz.)—The Castle, St. Nicholas' Church, All Saint's Church, St. Andrew's Church, and the Tower at the Westgate, accompanied by Five Minute Guns, fired at each of the following places; (viz.)—The Castle, All Saints' Church, Newgate, and Westgate. THOMAS SMITH, mayor.—*Newcastle, 16th March, 1804.*" Agreeably to notice, the signals were tried at the above places, and they were sufficiently seen in every direction to answer the purpose for which they were intended.—*Local Papers.*

1804 (Feb.)—Died at her residence, Carliol tower, in the Carliol-croft, Newcastle (where she conducted a school for young children), at the advanced age of 120, Mary McCrea. She had followed the above profession for 80 years.—*Ibid.*



CARLIOL TOWER (1800).

March 3.—This day, at a hunt near Kingswood, Northumberland, the fox being hard pressed, took shelter in the cleft of a high rock. The hunters provided themselves with spades, &c., and wrought for a considerable time, until they were on the point of reaching the fox, when one of them putting in a lever gave a shock to the rock, which was near forty feet high, and it immediately gave way, and three men that were at the top, with some hundreds of tons of rock, were hurled down the precipice. The ponderous load shivered several trees in its way, and two of the men were almost covered with the fragments; the third was hurled to the bottom, and in the act of recovering his feet, when a large piece of the rock, which followed, knocked him down and buried him. The former two were taken out much bruised; the third was in appearance lifeless.—*Gent's Mag.*



1804 (March 12.)—Died, at Bath, of a repeated stroke of the palsy, aged 67, the rev. Robert Hilton, of Trinity college, Cambridge, B. A. 1760; M. A. 1763. He was a native of the city of Durham, where his family had long been established; paternally descended from a baron by summons, and maternally from the Morlands, who were the original representatives in parliament of that city. His father was a barrister, recorder of Hartlepool, and a superior officer in the bishop's court. Mr. Hilton obtained at Cambridge a good degree and a fellowship of Trinity. He was a favourite member of the True Blue, where he first grew into an intimacy with lord Torrington, who, on leaving college, appointed him his domestic chaplain; and he, as it were, followed the fortunes of that generous nobleman. When his lordship was chargé d'affaires at Brussels, he accompanied him, and was there introduced to the duke of Portland. His grace distinguished him by particular marks of friendship; and, on his appointment to the lord lieutenancy of Ireland, offered him a bishoprick then vacant, which, by some inconceivable misunderstanding, Mr. Hilton did not accept. About the same time he accepted from his brother-in-law, — Andrews, esq. of Wells, the living of St. Mawgan, in Cornwall, on which he had resided about three years, when lord George Cavendish invited him, in the most friendly and flattering manner, to take upon him the care of his donative of Latimers, Bucks. About the year 1800, the bishop of Landaff presented him to a prebend in his cathedral, which was the last piece of preferment he enjoyed. So lately as within six weeks, the duke of Portland obtained for him the living of Bothal, in Northumberland, of the value of £1000. per annum. But a paralytic affection, which he had laboured under for above two years, had now rendered him past the enjoyment of this good fortune, and the intervening hand of death prevented even the possession of it—*Chatto's Col.*

March 24.—The new graving dock at St. Peters' Quay, east of Newcastle, built by Mr. William Row, was completed and took in the Henry and the Colpits, two vessels of above three hundred tons burthen. It was capable of receiving vessels of twelve feet water.—*Local Papers.*

April 6.—About eleven o'clock at night a most terrible fire broke out in the extensive glass-works belonging to Messrs. Blakett and Co., at South Shields, which, in a few hours, completely destroyed the building, together with most of the stock and utensils contained in

the same. The whole of the damage was estimated at £3000.—*Local Papers.*

1804 (April 8).—Died, at the house of her grandson, in Gateshead, Mrs. Ann Parkin, aged 104 years. She enjoyed a good state of health till within a few months of her death.—*Ibid.*



April 12.—Died, at the vicarage house, in Newcastle, in the 45th year of his age, the rev. Joseph Dacre Carlyle, B. D., and member of the society of Antiquaries, London. Mr. C. was the son of George Carlyle, M. D., of Carlisle, and born in that city, June 4th, 1758. There he received his early education, and in 1775, entered of Christ's college, Cambridge, which he afterwards quitted for Queen's college. After leaving college, he settled

in Carlisle, where he obtained one of the two parish churches, of which he performed the duties many years. In 1793, he took his degree of B. D., and the following year was elected to the professorship of Arabic. In 1795 he was called to the chancellorship of the diocese of Carlisle, vacated by the celebrated Dr. Paley. In 1799, from his great skill in oriental literature, he was appointed by Mr. Pitt to attend the embassy of the earl of Elgin, to the Ottoman court; to this he agreed, but had no official situation. Whilst at Constantinople he was admitted (according to expectation) into the libraries, and made catalogues of the works which they contained; after a residence of some months in the capital, he undertook, with a small party, a very extensive expedition into the provinces of the empire. His route lay through Asia Minor, and through countries which had not been penetrated by Europeans since the Turkish conquest. This was a very hazardous journey. He spent some time in the Troad, and surveyed with accuracy the site which had been assigned to ancient Troy. After a long journey by land, he took shipping and sailed (touching at many of the Grecian islands) to Alexandria, where he found sir Sidney Smith, aboard the "Tigre," with whom he spent six weeks. From Egypt he proceeded into Syria, and spent some time in Jerusalem, and other remarkable parts of the Holy-land, from whence he returned to Constantinople, where he resided some time. He next travelled into Greece and visited the ruins of some of its most celebrated cities. He visited the plains of Marathon, where the monument of Miltiades still remains. With great labour he made catalogues of all the works in the twenty-two libraries which are contained in the twenty-two monasteries of Mount

Athos. In this he was assisted by the rev. Philip Hunt,* chaplain to the embassy. Many of the monks impressed him with a high opinion of their abilities and learning. Before his return to England, he made a tour through part of Italy, from whence he proceeded through the Tyrol and part of Germany, and landed in England in September 1801. During his absence he had visited the most celebrated countries of the old world. Soon after his return he was presented by the bishop of Carlisle to the vicarage of Newcastle, into which living he was inducted October 5th, 1801, but, unfortunately for literature and his friends, he did not long enjoy his promotion. His health had probably been injured by the fatigues of his travels, and the variety of climate he had endured, and he laboured for a considerable time under a painful and distressing malady which terminated his existence as above stated. He lies buried at St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle, with the rest of the family.—*Gent's Mag.*

1804 (April 18).—The agreement was closed between the stewards of the incorporated companies of Newcastle and an agent from government, for eleven acres of ground on the Town-moor, at a rent of £55. per annum, on which to erect a large depôt for military stores, barracks, stabling, &c. These erections were completed in April, 1806.—*Local Papers.*

April 20.—The duke of Northumberland, lord of the manor of Tynemouth, at the request of the inhabitants of the said manor, established a weekly market on the Friday, at North Shields; also two fairs to be held annually at the same place, on the last Friday in April, and the first Friday in November, for the sale of cattle and all other goods, and for the hiring of servants. Agreeably to public notice, the market was accordingly opened, for the first time, on the above day; when, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, a great variety of wares were exhibited for sale, and the market was very numerously attended. At noon a salute of cannon announced its full establishment. The business of the day commenced, however, at the Bull-ring, North Shields, where a number of the neighbouring gentlemen attended, accompanied by the duke of Northumberland's tenants, all on horseback. The proclamation was first read by the bailiff of Tynemouthshire, and clerk of the market, when the procession moved forward to the Market-place. The duchess of Northumberland's piper, mounted on a white pony, and playing the favourite strain of "My Jockey stays long at the fair," led the van; next to him rode the bailiff of the manor and his deputy, and then followed the gentlemen, and tenants, two and two. When they arrived at the

* A native of Newcastle, who had his early education at the Grammar School there.

post-office, another proclamation was made : they then proceeded to Tynemouth castle gates, and from thence to the place where the ancient cross of Tynemouth stood, in the days of the Priory, making a proclamation at each place ; the piper then performed some northern airs, in a style that would have done no dishonour to Courtney, Gow, or Allen. The inhabitants of the parish of Tynemouth, and the adjacent parts of the south-east corner of Northumberland, were much benefited by these arrangements.—*Mon. Mag.*

1804 (April 29).—The Newcastle volunteers, commanded by lieut. col. Clennell, commenced in Newcastle their twenty-one days of permanent duty, which they undertook with an ardour and alacrity highly honourable to the corps.—*Local Papers.*

About this period a life boat was established at Redcar, near the mouth of the Tees, which has often proved highly serviceable to the crews of vessels wrecked on the coast. As a considerable time necessarily elapsed before either this boat or that at Hartlepool could reach ships in distress on the north side of the Tees, Jonathan Backhouse, esq., of Darlington, has since provided a life boat at his own expence, which is stationed at Seaton Carew.—*Meckenzie and Ross' Dur.*

April 30.—The North Shields and Tynemouth volunteers entered upon permanent duty for one month ; the guards of Clifford's fort, Tynemouth barracks, and the Spanish battery, were delivered up to them. The company in Clifford's fort had not been in possession of it more than four hours, when major Doyle, of the light brigade, from Sunderland, crossed the Tyne, in a large flat bottomed boat, accompanied by one company of the 61st regiment, another of the Northumberland and another of the Lanarkshire militia. The commander of the besieging party having summoned the fort to surrender, received a refusal, on which it was attempted to be taken by storm, but they were every way repulsed. The number of the volunteers within the fort being insufficient for the guarding the embrasures and the walls, an express was sent off for the remainder of the corps to hasten to their assistance. The light company was in the van, when they arrived at the Low-lights bank, they beheld a fight, which, to them, was rather novel ; the bridge was in possession of a party of the besiegers, they instantly commenced a brisk fire on the volunteers, who nevertheless forced the pass by the point of the bayonet.—After the arrival of the volunteers, the fight became general, and great skill was displayed on both sides. The temper of the troops was well preserved, a determined coolness and intrepidity was visible in both parties, and the volunteers proved themselves worthy of being entrusted with the fort, having so bravely defended it against excellent

troops, some of which were of the line. During the contest, a party of the volunteers crossed the Tyne, and struck the tents of the besieging party.—*Local Papers*.

1804 (April).—Died, at the advanced age of 103, Mrs. Margaret Holmes of Sunderland Bridge, near Durham; she retained all her faculties till within a few days of her death.—*Univ. Mag.*



BROAD CHARE, NEWCASTLE.

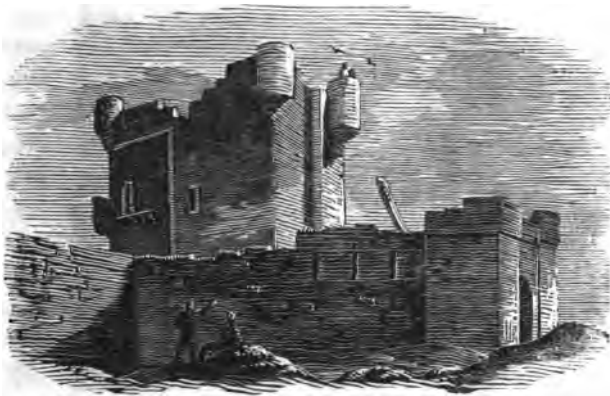
This month, a young man named Stoddart, a seaman, was pursued by the press gang down the Broad-chare, Newcastle, when, to escape them, he jumped into the Tyne, and attempted to swim across the river to Gateshead. One of them threatening to fire at him if he did not return, the fright and exertion took away his strength, and he was drowned.—*Univ. Mag.*

May 25.—This day (Friday), being the general fast, the Newcastle loyal associated volunteer infantry assembled on their parade ground, from whence they marched to St. Nicholas' church, and attended divine service. The same day their route arrived for the performance of permanent duty for twenty-one days, upon which they entered with cheerfulness: nearly eight hundred privates having previously volunteered their services for duty.—*Local Papers*.

May 29.—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal to Mr.

William Watson, of North Middleton, near Belford, in Northumberland, for the comparative culture of turnips.—*Local Papers*.

1804 (May).—On removing a mound of earth, to make the outer entrance into Tynemouth castle more suitable to the ingress and egress of heavy pieces of ordnance, vast quantities of human bones were found, supposed to be the remains of bodies buried there, after the storming of the castle in 1648, by Cromwell's troops, under the command of sir Arthur Heslerigg.—*Univ. Mag.*



OUTER FACE OF THE GATEWAY OF TYNEMOUTH CASTLE,
Designed from Grose, &c., as seen in 1783.

June 4.—All the volunteer corps within a day's march of Newcastle, were assembled on the Town-moor there, and fired three volleys in honour of his majesty's birth-day. The line extended above a mile in length. A great concourse of spectators was present.—*Local Papers*.

June 9.—A very serious riot took place at Berwick, between a recruiting party of the York reserve, and some of the inhabitants. In a short time upwards of a thousand people were upon the street, and swords and bayonets were seen glaring among the crowd in great numbers; the most dreadful oaths and groans were heard in every quarter. The main guard soon turned out, and eagerly rushed forward to the assistance of their officers and comrades, the former having exerted their authority in vain. The utmost confusion and uproar prevailed, and there seemed no mode left of quelling the riot until the mayor, attended by his officers, with the other magistrates, and a considerable number of private gentlemen interfered; their united exertions at length were successful, after many desperate blows were given and received, and quietness was at last restored upon the soldiers retiring to the barracks. The mayor was several

times upon the point of causing the riot act to be read, but this was fortunately rendered unnecessary the moment that the swords and bayonets were sheathed. The conduct of the chief magistrate during the affray was judicious, spirited and manly; he derived great assistance from the energetic exertions and coolness of captain Locke of the royal navy.—*Local Papers*.

1804 (June 15).—A play and farce (The Revenge, and The Old Maid), were performed in the theatre royal, Newcastle, by the officers of the second Staffordshire militia, for the benefit of the infirmary.—*J. Bell's Col.*

June.—As some workmen were pulling down an old house at Gal-low-hill, in Northumberland, a bag of gold pieces, of the coin of Charles I. was found; the legend *Carolus D. G. Mag. Bri. F. et Hi. Rex.* and XX, behind the head, to denote its value in shillings; and on the reverse, round the arms, *Floreat Concordia Regni*.—*Local Papers*.

June.—Military encampments were formed on the coast of Northumberland.—*Ibid.*

July 2.—The Gateshead volunteers, commanded by lieut. colonel Askew, marched into Newcastle for the performance of three weeks permanent duty. The arrival of the corps was greeted by various peals from the bells of St Nicholas'.—*Ibid.*

July 20.—Died, at Burnt-houses, Whickham Fell, Mrs. Dunn, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

July 25.—Between eight and nine o'clock at night, the hold of the sloop *Eliza*, of Aberdeen, lying at Newcastle Quay, with a valuable cargo of merchandise on board, was discovered to be on fire. The drums and bugle of the armed association immediately sounded an alarm, when the members of that corps (who had a little before returned from the field), were in a few minutes assembled and proceeded to the Quay, where they were of the utmost service in keeping off the crowd, and protecting the property that was taken out of the vessel. Two engines were managed with so much skill, that about eleven o'clock, the fire was completely got under. The cargo being much burnt and injured, the loss was very great.—*Ibid.*

July.—A vote having been passed at the quarter sessions, to double the width of the passage of Elvet-bridge, in the city of Durham, the work was commenced this month, and the last arch was closed August 4th, 1805. The workmen, in taking down part of the southernmost pillar, found amongst the masonry a noble of Edward VI.—*Surtees*.

August 4.—Died, at the inn at Cornhill, in Northumberland, admiral lord viscount Duncan. He was on his road from London to Scotland.—*Local Papers*.

1804 (Aug. 31).—A general muster of the Newcastle waggon train, under the command of captain Davidson, took place upon the Town-moor, when the whole, amounting to upwards of a hundred and sixty waggons, carts, &c., were assembled. After being minutely inspected, the whole passed the captain in the greatest order and regularity. The corps was officered by a captain commandant, two lieutenants, and five superintendents or ensigns, who held commissions from the lord lieutenant, and consisted of fifteen troops, each under the immediate direction of a conductor, who was a warrant officer. It was the only regular establishment of the kind (except the royal waggon train) in England.—*Local Papers*.

September.—Died at South Shields, John More, aged 101 years, 90 of which he used the sea.—*Univ. Mag.*

September 12.—The two volunteer corps of Newcastle, with the waggon train, were inspected on the Town-moor, by the hon. brigadier general Grey. The associated corps mustered about seven hundred privates, and the Newcastle volunteers about two hundred, all of whom were mounted upon the carts and waggons provided for the occasion, and proceeded in this manner to town. The novelty of the scene drew together an immense crowd of spectators. In case of actual invasion, the plan was admirably calculated to lessen the fatigues of a long march, and to preserve unimpaired the vigour of the troops till the moment of action.—*Local Papers*.

September 27.—A silver cup, value fifty guineas, raised by a subscription of the gentlemen of the Newcastle Hunt, was run for on Newcastle race ground. Out of thirty subscribers, only five started. It was won by Isaac Cookson, jun., esq.—*Ibid.*

September 29.—About six o'clock in the evening, a most alarming fire broke out in the back premises, known by the name of Coward's yard, in Alnwick, inhabited by poor people, which threatened serious consequences, as many thatched houses were nearly adjoining; but the wind providentially kept moderate. Two engines were soon on the spot, and were well supplied with water, notwithstanding which, four houses in one row, containing nine families, were burnt down.—*Ibid.*

December.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Ann Simpson, wife of Mr. John Simpson, inn-keeper, aged 52. She was so corpulent as to require a coffin three feet over the shoulders, and it was necessary to displace a window to get it out of the house.—*Univ. Mag.*

December 9.—Died, at Hexham, Sarah Stephenson, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

Died, this year, at Hentlaw, near Ponteland, at the age of 100 years, Mr. John Lumsden, who notwithstanding his privation of

sight, enjoyed, till within a few hours of his death, the most uninterrupted flow of health and spirits.—*Mon. Mag.*

1804.—A neat and convenient meeting house was built in the Green Bat, Alnwick, for the use of the associate church.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

This year, a superb painting by the celebrated Giordano, representing the last supper, was presented by George Anderson, esq., to the inhabitants of the chapelry of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle, which was placed above the communion table of that church.—*Local Papers.*

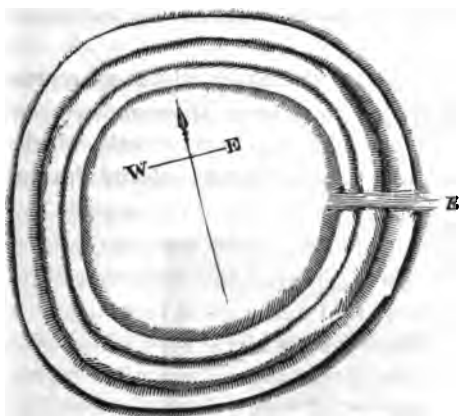


CHANCEL OF ST. ANDREW'S (1826).

Cocken Hall, about four miles north of the city of Durham, this year, became the residence of a convent of Nuns, of the order of St. Theresa, from Lier, in Flanders.—*Surtees.*

About this period, Mr. Bell, the tenant of the farmstead, called High Warden, near Hexham, discovered a subterraneous passage, which remained open some years; but as it soon became the favourite retreat and habitation of a colony of foxes, it became necessary to fill up the excavation with earth and stones. It was never properly explored; and it is uncertain whether it was used as a magazine, a place of sacrifice, or of sepulture for those who fell in the defence, or attack, of a fort which is situate near two hundred yards to the south of the passage. This fort is situate on a high hill, called the castle hill, where are the remains of a British strength, shewn in the accompanying ground plan. This ancient fortification

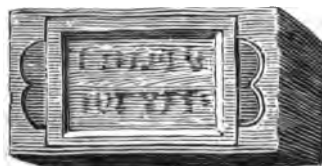
includes an area of above two acres, and has been defended by a rampart of unhewn stone, as were all those British forts that pre-



ceded the Roman times : the other rampiers of earth, and their corresponding ditches, which circumscribe the original works, were probably added by the Romans, or the Romanised Britons, who would not neglect to occupy such a commanding station. The entrance has been on the east, and the approach to it is flanked by stone ramparts. The remains

of buildings may yet be distinctly traced within the lines : where also several hand mills or *querns* have been discovered. It commands an extensive prospect up both the Tynes, and has in view all the principal buildings or villages up the same rivers. Behind the vicarage house at Warden are the traces of another military station, called also the *Castle Hill*, and what has once been an out-work of the former ; or this post may have been erected by the Romans, to bridle the British strength, which they could not assault.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1804.—This year a portion of a long and picturesque line of the Roman wall, about two hundred yards in length, a little to the west of Denton Hall, near Newcastle, was dismantled of its antient garb of thorns and hazels, and levelled for the plough. During its erasement the first and second stones, inscribed *O IVLI RVFI i. e.* “*Centurio*



Julius Rufus," were found, and the third almost wholly obliterated ; but it probably refers to the cohort which was in garrison in this neighbourhood. They were removed to Denton hall, where they are now carefully preserved by the present proprietor among other antiquities found there or in the vicinity.—*MS. Col.*

1804.—Walkergate lane chapel (Baptist), Berwick-on-Tweed, founded. The register of births extends from 1805 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1805 (Feb. 28).—About four o'clock in the morning of this day, a tremendous gale from the W.N.W. set in motion the duke of Northumberland's windmill, situated near Tynemouth barracks, and from the rapidity of the movement, the friction of the axle-tree set fire to the adjoining timber. The whole roof was soon in flames, and went off in large flakes of fire. By this time the metal wheels belonging to the machinery were red-hot, and presented, in countless whirls of motion, one of the grandest and most awful sights the imagination can conceive. The wands at length fell with a mighty crash, bringing with them the rim of the building-stones, wheels and axle-tree. Nothing was left but the bare stone trunk. No person was hurt ; but the loss in flour and grain was estimated at one thousand pounds.—*Local Papers.*

April.—Died, at Bath, aged 62, John Clark, M. D., fellow of the royal college of physicians, Edinburgh, and senior physician to the Infirmary of Newcastle ; whose eminence and success in his profession were the deserved reward of great abilities, devoted from his earliest years to the diligent study and faithful exercise of it ; and whose goodness of heart and simplicity of manners ensured him the warm attachment of an extensive circle of friends. Applying the whole force of his mind to the principles of medical science, they became the habitual and familiar objects of his pursuit, from a sentiment of taste as well as duty. This led him to investigate the cases of the sick with that careful and patient attention which was naturally followed by an accurate discrimination of their diseases, while the kind concern he shewed for their sufferings, and the skill which he exerted in the vigorous application of the resources of his art for their relief, engaged the most implicit confidence of those who were under his care.—His attentions were not confined to any class or society. For many years he was by pre-eminence the physician of the poor, and, in seasons of the most extensive practice, his mind was always employed in devising plans for their relief in the time of their distress.—To him that useful institution, the Dispensary, owes its establishment ; the preservative and inoculative departments were afterwards added under his direction ; and by his means the Infir-

mary was so greatly improved, both as to accommodation and internal management, as deservedly to rank with the most celebrated hospitals in Great Britain.—The Fever Hospital, also, established for the prevention of contagious diseases, is the fruits of his exertions, although the plan which he proposed was not entirely adopted. His reputation as a medical writer has long been fully established by his *Observations on the Diseases of Hot Climates*, and his *Treatise on Fevers*, and his *Collection of Papers relative to Contagion*, contain a body of evidence of infinite importance to the medical inquirer. Dr. Clark's remains were, at his own request, deposited, on the 24th of April, in the church-yard of Weston, near Bath; near the grave of his friend, the late Mr. Bigge, of Benton house, near Newcastle.—*Mon. Mag.*

1805 (May 21).—Died, at Sunderland, Mr. Edward Lawson, aged 106; he was blind three years, but recovered his sight a short time previous to his death and had an extraordinary memory.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth rectory, in the sixty-second year of his age, William Paley, D.D. This eminent philosopher and divine of the church of England, was born at Peterborough, in 1743. In 1795, he was presented by the bishop of Durham (Barrington) to the living of Bishopwearmouth. He was also sub-dean of Lincoln. He was the author of some excellent works, viz.—“*Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy*,” “*Horæ Paulinæ*,” “*View of the Evidences of Christianity*,” “*Natural Theology, or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity*,” “*Sermons*,” &c. &c.—*Ibid.*

May.—In making a grave on the north aisle of Hexham church, a stone coffin was discovered, on opening which the bones of a human being were found quite entire. They were supposed to be those of Alfwold, king of Northumberland, who was assassinated at Seythescestre (Walwick Chesters), by Sigan, a lord of his court, in the year 788.—*Mon. Mag.*

June 5.—Mr. William Temple, of Beamish, was presented, by the Society of Arts, with a gold medal, value thirty guineas, for his great exertions in draining, cultivating, and improving 308 acres of waste land, being a part of Chester division, of which the purchase money, in 1799, was £2665. but which, on the 24th of March 1804, was valued at £9025. The Society expressed themselves highly pleased at the report of so large a quantity of land being brought into such a state of agriculture, in the short space of three years and a half.—*Mon. Mag.*

June 19.—A fair for the disposal of wool was established at Morpeth, and held for the first time on the above day. It was

intended to be continued annually, on the third Wednesday in that month.—*Mon. Mag.*

1805 (June 28).—Lord Elibank crossed the Scottish border with the Peebleshire volunteers. The regiment having arrived at Carham-haugh, in Northumberland, were formed in line, when they fired three volleys and gave three cheers. This was the first Scottish volunteer corps that had entered England in a body. The men, after being plentifully regaled by their officers with several casks of porter, &c., returned to their quarters at Kelso in the evening.—*Local Papers.*

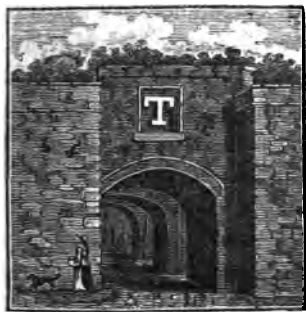
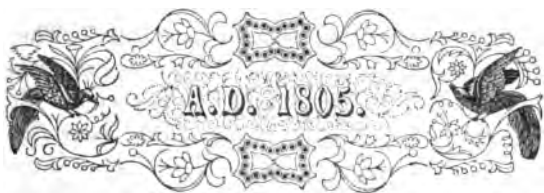
August 7.—The new brewery at the Dean, near South Shields, was burnt down.—*Ibid.*

August 12.—Richard Metcalfe was executed at Durham for the murder of his son-in law.—*Ibid.*

August 13.—Died, at Newcastle, aged 18, Mr. Thomas Pattison, son of Mr. Mark Pattison, and apprentice to the late Mr. Murray, surgeon. He was a youth of extraordinary literary acquirements, and was remarkable at that early period of his life for his studious and inquisitive turn of mind. So retentive was his memory that after a single hearing he could write down the precise words of a philosophical lecture which had engaged the orator an hour and a half in the delivery with all the necessary calculations and scientific terms accurately repeated. He was of a mild and unassuming disposition, and never shewed any attachment to those games and diversions which usually occupy the time and attention of thoughtless adolescence.—*Mon. Mag.*



CHAPTER III.



HOMAS CLARE, a private in the 2nd Staffordshire militia, was executed, according to his sentence, at the Westgate, Newcastle, on August 16th, 1805, for the murder of William Todd. He was much agitated on witnessing the awful preparation for eternity, so much so, that he appeared nearly dead before his suspension; he made no public confession of his guilt. The murder was committed

August 19th, 1804, during the time the regiment was encamped near Hartley.—*Local Papers.*

August 19.—About three o'clock in the morning, a terrible fire was discovered in the colour manufactory at the Ouseburn, occupied by Messrs. Parker, of Newcastle. The flames raged with such fury, that in a short time the building was almost totally destroyed. The immense quantities of resin which were in the premises, kept it burning furiously for a considerable time. It was suspected that the mischief was caused by an incendiary. The fire when discovered, was in the very centre of the works, which unfortunately were not insured. The damage was estimated at upwards of £4,000.—*Ibid.*

In the evening of the same day, William Henry West Betty, the young Roscius, aged 13 years, first performed at the Theatre-Royal, Newcastle, in the character of Douglass. He performed thirteen nights, and drew crowded audiences. The receipts during that time were £1889. 16s. 6d., at the advanced prices, averaging £145. 7s. 5d. per night. The last night (13th), he performed Rollo for his own benefit, which produced £210. 9s.—*Ibid.*

September 15.—This day (Sunday), at noon, William Cuzen, a private in the royal artillery, aged about 28 years, blew out his brains

with a horse pistol, near the village of Westoe, South Shields. A short time before, he called at a public-house in Westoe, and wrote a letter, of which the following is a copy :—

“Mr. EDWARD CHADWICK, } Burgh Hall,
Mr. THOMAS CHADWICK, } Lancashire.”

“Ab hoc memento pencit æternitas !”

“Dreadful attempt !

Just reeking from self-slaughter, in a rage,
To rush into the presence of our judge ;
As if we

matter'd not his wrath ! Unheard-of tortures
Must be reserv'd for such : these herd together,
The common damn'd shun their society,
And look upon themselves as fiends less foul.”

“WM. CUZEN.”

“I once had thousands, and was once philosopher enough to brave misfortunes, but I have been neglected, therefore have I done this. I am gone a long journey, but *if possible*, will return to torment ingratitude. I was ever grateful. The world has lost an ornament, a diamond in the rough.”

The coroner's inquest returned a verdict of lunacy. Part of the letter is a quotation from Blair's Poem of “The Grave.”—*Mom. Mag.*

1805 (Oct. 21).—Died, Mrs. Kidd, mother of Mr. Kidd, flax-dresser in Newcastle, at the great age of 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

October 21.—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery, by which thirty-five human beings lost their lives, leaving twenty-five widows and eighty-one children unprovided for.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—An explosion took place in Oxclose colliery, by which unfortunate accident thirty-eight human beings were hurried into eternity, and eighteen widows and seventy children were thrown upon the charity of the public.—*Ibid.*

December 10.—In the evening of this day, was found dead, on the road between Hexham and Haydon-bridge, Mr. Thomas Graham, merchant, of the latter place. His death was occasioned by a fall from his horse. It was very remarkable, a strange dog was lying by the body when found, and would suffer no person to come near it till forced. It afterwards followed the body to Haydon-bridge, up into the chamber where it was laid, and being driven out of the room, it found his boots in another, and lay down upon them ; it also followed close behind the body to the place of interment, and was seen many days afterwards howling and scratching upon the grave. The dog belonged to Mr. Armstrong, butcher, of Hexham. Mrs. Batey, of the Grey Bull inn, Hexham, where Mr. Graham set out from, heard a dog howling horribly as Mr. Graham left her house.—*Ibid.*

1805 (Dec. 10).—During the night an extraordinary high tide took place at Shields, and the sea being very high, occasioned the waves to break with great fury against the stone quay at the foot of Tyne-mouth barracks, built by order of his royal highness the duke of York. Several of the woodenheads or breakwaters, finished in the most substantial manner, were torn from their places in front of the wall and dashed to pieces. The tide washed down the sentry-box near Clifford's fort, although placed where the water seldom reached. Much old ship timber was carried adrift, and, by driving up and down, damaged and sunk several boats. The sea continued high for some days.—*Local Papers*.

December 26.—Died, at Fenwick hall, near Stamfordham, in Northumberland, Mrs. Ann Dixon, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

Printing was first established in Morpeth, this year, by Mr. Stephen Wilkinson, bookseller and post-master.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



WHITE FRIARS' POSTERN (1600).

Designed from existing remains, and other authorities.

This year, the White-friars' postern—commonly but very erroneously called the "Postern Gate" situate near to Nevil tower, on the ancient wall of Newcastle, was removed to widen the thoroughfare. It was used as means of egress for the monks of the adjacent friary, as a place for a sortie of the garrison of the castle which is near to it, and was the scene of a gallant exploit in remote times. It was of great strength, had oaken doors, a strong portcullis, and was flanked on the north-west by Nevil tower.—*MS. Col.*

A Roman celt was this year ploughed out of Tunstall-hills, in the

county of Durham. It was about five inches long, and two and a half inches broad at the edge.—*Local Rec.*

1806 (Jan. 9).—Being the day appointed for the funeral of lord Nelson, at the cathedral of St. Paul, in London, the bells of St. Nicholas' and All Saints' churches, in Newcastle, rung muffled peals at intervals during the day. The great bell of St. Mary's, in Gateshead, was tolled on the same melancholy occasion. At South Shields, the great bell tolled at intervals, from sun-rise to sun-set, and the ensign on the steeple was hoisted half-staff high; in the evening a solemn peal was rung from seven to eight o'clock, and besides these marks of respect to departed heroism, most of the inhabitants appeared in mourning, and all the ships in the harbour displayed their colours half-mast high. In 1807, Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, in Northumberland, erected an obelisk of freestone, to the memory of private friendship borne by him to the gallant admiral. It stands near the post road, about a mile north of the village of Felton.—*Ibid.*

January 12.—The newly erected iron bridge over the river Tees, near Yarm, fell with a tremendous crash and concussion that was sensibly felt in every part of the town. Fortunately the old bridge remained, or the road leading into that part of the country must have been almost totally disused, at least for some time.—*Univ. Mag.*

January 13.—Died, in Toll street, North Shields, Mr. William Lamshaw, aged 25 years, her grace the duchess of Northumberland's piper. This extraordinary performer on the improved small pipes, was grandson of the celebrated piper Lamshaw, of Morpeth, on whose demise, he was taken from the band of the Northumberland militia, where he had been since a boy of twelve years' of age. When only eighteen, he played a match against the most famed pipers in the north of England, at Elsdon, before the duke's baronial court, and some distinguished judges, and bore away the prize.—*Mon. Mag.*

February 8.—Between four and five o'clock in the morning, the premises occupied by Messrs. Beilby and Hawthorn, watch-glass manufacturers, in Bell's-court, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, were discovered to be so totally enveloped in flames, that every exertion to extinguish the devouring element, proved unavailing, and the whole were consumed in the course of an hour. The stock, which amounted to between two and three thousand pounds, was entirely destroyed.—*Local Papers.*

March 16.—A fire was discovered in one of the bed-rooms of the house of William Hodshon, esq., at Merry Shields, Northumberland. The flames soon raged with such fury, that the whole inside of the

building, with the beds, furniture, wine in the cellar, and valuables to a great amount, were totally destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

1806 (March 19).—Died, at Newcastle, in his 45th year, Andrew Young, M.D., and fellow of the royal college of physicians in Edinburgh; a man who was remarkably successful during an extensive practice in that town and neighbourhood. Under a blunt, though candid and honest address, he possessed a most feeling and benevolent heart; and whatever his failings might be, he enjoyed the confidence and good will of all men who knew him. If his eccentricities estranged any one from him who had formerly possessed his friendship, no one could ever impeach the honour and integrity of his conduct; for though the doctor could not bear “the proud man’s contumely,” still he was “the poor man’s friend.” Being a member of the Newcastle loyal volunteers, he was interred with military honours, in St. Andrew’s church-yard, and was also attended to the grave by most of the surgeons and physicians resident in the town.—*Mon. Mag.*

March 24.—Died, in the Workhouse, at Sunderland, Barbara Coag, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers*.

March 28.—An explosion took place in Killingworth colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence ten persons lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

April 1.—Died, at Gateshead, Ann Maddison, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

April 5.—A terrible fire was discovered in the malting of Messrs. Barras and Co., in Gateshead, which did considerable damage to the building and stock of malt.—*Ibid.*

April 6.—Died, at South Shields, Hannah Gordon, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 7.—As two sawyers in the boat building yard of Mr. Masterton, near Gateshead, were sawing a well grown elm tree, they were suddenly stopped in the midst of their work by a harder body than the wood, which on further examination, proved to be a horse shoe, in good preservation, and which there was no reason to doubt had been there since the first growth of the timber. It was found in the very core of the tree, where a fine impression of the shoe was made on the surrounding surface. No visible injury appeared to have been sustained by the timber in consequence of this strange companion.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—This day, (Sunday) earl Percy having attained his 21st year, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells at every church in the county of Northumberland. On Monday the celebration of that happy event was of the most harmonious and enthusiastic kind; at Alnwick, in particular, no circumstance in the memory of the oldest person living ever excited such rapturous feelings of con-

gratulation and joy as were displayed in that town on the occasion. The representatives of the duke, at Alnwick castle, also entered



INNER GATEWAY, ALNWICK CASTLE.

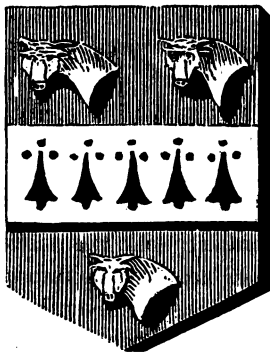
warmly into the general enthusiasm, by co-operating with the public in rendering the joyous day an event as memorable as it was important. A large ox was roasted in the market-place, and seven hundred loaves were provided for the entertainment of the people in the town and neighbourhood. Two pipes of remarkable strong beer, brewed when earl Percy was born, were brought from Keilder castle, which, with thirty other barrels of strong ale, were also distributed among the populace; and to add to the entertainment, a building was erected in the market place to contain a band of music, who played during the principal part of the day. The Percy tenantry, in and about Alnwick, were called up and treated in the most liberal manner. The three companies of cavalry and nine of infantry, were entertained at his grace's expence, with an excellent dinner and a bottle of wine each man, and three shillings were allowed for the expence of each horse. An elegant dinner was provided at the White Swan inn, for all the officers of the corps, and the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood. About five hundred suits of clothes were given to the cottagers upon the noble duke's estates. The officers of the Percy tenantry in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, who could not, without inconvenience, pay a visit to Alnwick, were munificently entertained

at the Turk's head inn in that place, with an elegant dinner, and the day was spent with the utmost conviviality. The Percy tenantry infantry were regaled at Mrs. Thrift's market place, North Shields, and the cavalry at Tynemouth,—*Local Papers*.

1806 (May).—Died, at South Shields, aged 101, Margaret Tate, who could read a newspaper till two days before her death.—*Univ. Mag.*

May 19.—A plan of the grounds belonging to his majesty at Tynemouth castle, Spanish battery, &c., and of the works raised for the defence of the castle against the parliament's army in the reign of king Charles the first, was taken by order of government.—*Ibid.*

June 5.—The foundation stone of the new subscription library, in Howard street, North Shields, was laid with great solemnity by William Linskill, esq., high sheriff of Northumberland. A plate with a latin inscription, was deposited in the stone. November 5th, 1807. the building was opened with a concert of vocal and instrumental music.—*Local Papers*.



July 5.—Died, in Northumberland street, Newcastle, in his 85th year, the rev. Hugh Moises, A. M., many years head master of the free grammar school in that town, and justly celebrated for his laborious and successful discharge of that important duty. During the presidency of the rev. Mr. Moises, the right hon. the earl of Eldon, lord Stowell, lord Collingwood, and several other eminent persons obtained the rudiments of their education in this seminary. On the 4th of

April, 1761, he was appointed forenoon lecturer of All Saints, where for about thirty years he fulfilled that office with the same unremitting attention; and, from the circumstance of his reducing to practice the several virtues he inculcated from the pulpit, added to a peculiar but striking manner of delivery, which did not fail to arrest the attention of the most careless part of his audience, the church was numerously attended during his labours. So great an aversion had he to eat the bread of idleness, that while the edifice was rebuilding, he made a tender of his salary, unless a place was procured in which he could officiate; and this was the cause of the chapel of the Trinity house being opened until the new church was finished. And so desirous was he to cultivate a spirit of industry in others, that, when assailed in the street by a sturdy beggar, he generally took the opportunity of making a present to some poor but industrious person who might be on the spot, and left the mendicant unnoticed. On resigning the mastership of the grammar school, June 14th 1787, Mr.

Moises was presented, by his pupils, with an elegant and valuable diamond ring, on which was engraven the following motto :—" OPTIME MORENTI," as a testimony of their gratitude for his attention to and care of their education, which he was pleased to accept in a condescending and gracious manner, highly to the satisfaction of the pupils, whose sorrow on losing so worthy and amiable a master was unaffected. There never was perhaps a gentleman in a public character as a teacher, whose resignation was more regretted than that of this worthy divine, who had filled that important station for a period of thirty-seven years with the utmost dignity. November 1810, an elegant mural monument, by Flaxman, with a latin inscription from the classical pen of sir William Scott (afterwards lord Stowell), was placed in St. Mary's porch, in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, in memory of this eminent divine.—*Mon. Mag., &c.*



1806.—About this period, the remains of a Roman sudatory or bath was discovered at Binchester, in the south of Durham, the *Vinovium* of Antoninus. It is a subterraneous apartment, within the station, and yet remains in a very observable state. This station, or city, was celebrated for its pottery, and has proved a mine of antiquity. The accompanying engraving represents a stone found there, many bearing the figure of one of the *Fundatores* or slingers of the Roman army.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur., &c.*

July.—Died, Elizabeth Roberts, aged 99, relict of Hugh Roberts of Chester, who served many years in the 3rd regiment of foot. She was an eye witness of five different battles that her husband had been in. Her strength did not fail her to the last. She had thirteen children, thirty-five grand-children, and thirteen great grand-children. *Univ. Mag.*

July.—A ploughman, while at work in a field near Lumley, struck his plough upon the top of an old earthen pot, which was found to contain several pieces of silver coin, of the reign of queen Elizabeth, in a fine state of preservation.—*Ibid.*

July.—Died, George Wakefield, esq., of Wakefield house near North Shields, a partner in the Northumberland bank. On the Wednesday preceding his death he was confirmed by the bishop, with his children in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, having lately left the society of quakers, and joined the established church.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—Arrived in Newcastle, on a tour through the British islands, their most serene highnesses, Prince Frederick Au-

gustus and Prince Paul George of Holstein Oldenburgh, attended by Count Holmar and Baron Maltzahn.—*Local Papers*.

1806 (Sep. 11).—Died, in London, the rev. John Brand, M. A., rector of the united parishes of St. Mary at Hill, and St. Andrew Hubbard, in the city of London, and resident secretary to the Society of Antiquaries. Mr. Brand, was born on August 19, 1744, at Washington, in the county of Durham, where his father, Alexander Brand, was parish clerk. His mother dying immediately after his birth, and his father having married again, he was taken, when a child, under the protection of his maternal uncle, Anthony Wheatley, cordwainer, residing in the Back-row, Newcastle, to whom he was bound apprentice on September 4, 1758.



HOUSE IN THE BACK-ROW, IN WHICH BRAND RESIDED.

Mr. Brand was educated at the Royal Grammar-school, in that town, under the able direction of the rev. Hugh Moises, where he acquired a taste for classical pursuits; and his sedentary employment being favourable to mental exertion, he continued so ardent and indefatigable in the pursuit of knowledge, as to secure the esteem and friendship of his former worthy master, Mr. Moises, who interested some opulent friends in his behalf, and assisted in sending him to Oxford. He was entered at Lincoln college, where he took his bachelor's degree, and having been ordained, he became curate of Bolam, in Northumberland. June, 1773, Mr. Brand was presented to the curacy of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle. October 16th, 1774, he was presented to the curacy of Cramlington, in Northumberland, by Matthew Ridley, esq. May the 29th, the same year, he was

elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. While at the university, he published a poem "On Illicit Love, written among the ruins of Godstow Nunnery;" and in 1777, he published "Observations on Popular Antiquities, including the whole of Mr. Brand's *Antiquitates Vulgares*, with Addenda to every Chapter of that Work; as also, an Appendix, containing such articles on the Subject as have been omitted by that Author," 8vo. This work he continued to enlarge and improve till his death, when a new edition was published, in two vols. 4to., by Mr. Ellis. In 1784, he removed to the rectory of St. Mary at Hill, and St. Andrew Hubbard, London, and in 1786, was appointed one of the domestic chaplains to the duke of Northumberland. June 14th, 1787, at a meeting of the common council in Newcastle, the corporation was pleased to grant to Mr. Brand the honour of dedicating to that body his *History of Newcastle*, then about to be published by subscription. May 16th, 1789, Mr. Brand announced that his "*History of Newcastle* was published, price three guineas, embellished with thirty-four views of the public buildings, &c., engraved by Mr. Fittler." This valuable work is in two vols. 4to.; the engravings, it is said, cost £500, but the want of a good index is much to be regretted. A small portrait of Mr. Brand is given in the title-page of this work.*—*Gent's. Mag., &c.*

1806 (Sep. 23).—Died, at Eshe, in the parish of Lanchester, John Hunter, who, according to his own account, corroborated by the parish register of Chester-le-Street, completed his 106th year the previous April.—*Local Papers.*

October 14.—The foundation stone of the New Quay and Market-place, at North Shields, was laid, under a triple discharge of nine pieces of ordnance. His grace the duke of Northumberland's bailiff for Tynemouthshire, David Stephenson, esq., architect, and a vast concourse of spectators, attended. The ships in the harbour also displayed their colours on the occasion.—*Ibid.*

December 3.—A very alarming fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. John Anderson, joiner and cabinet maker, in the Bigg-market,

* At the sale of the library of the rev. J. Brand, at Stewart's Rooms, in Piccadilly, Dr. Gossett was examining a copy of a Latin dictionary, in three volumes, folio, which he wished to purchase. During his examination, he found two leaves fastened together in such a way to give him some trouble to separate them, when he discovered carefully enclosed a bank-note of £50 and a portrait of "Margaret Smith, widow of sir Thomas Carye." The doctor instantly communicated the intelligence to Mr. Stewart; and after the dictionary was sold, the particulars were made known in the sale-room, and the print was put up for sale. Caulfield, the printseller, bid as far as £24 10s., and a Mr. Lloyd became the purchaser at 25 guineas. Mr. Brand's executors insisted on presenting Dr. Gossett with the book, which was bought for that purpose by Mr. Stewart at seven guineas. *J. Bell's Col.*

Newcastle, which raged with great fury for nearly an hour, laying the workshop in ruins, and partially injuring an adjoining dwelling-house, before the fire was got under.—*Local Papers*.

1806 (Dec. 10).—Died, at Gainford, in the county of Durham, where he had resided for many years, the humble but industrious antiquary, John Cade. He was born at Darlington in 1734, and acquired in queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar-school there Latin enough "to read a legend on a coin, or an inscription on a gravestone." At an early age he was placed in the house of a wholesale linen-draper in London, where he rose by honest industry from the lowest situation in the warehouse, to the first in the counting-house; after which he was admitted a partner into a branch of the business in Dublin. Individuals endowed with a literary turn, however limited their acquirements, and however humble their pretensions, are seldom, I believe, vassals to the dæmon of avarice; and Cade, as soon as he had acquired a very moderate competence, relinquished trade for ever, and retired about 1775, first to Durham, and afterwards, about 1785, to Gainford, where his leisure, till within a very few years of his death, was unceasingly devoted to topographical pursuits. He explored Roman roads, illustrated stations, *suo more*, and above all employed himself in the amusing labour of *illustration*. Cade's last years were passed under the pressure of severe infirmity. Nearly sixteen years before his death a paralytic stroke deprived him of the use of his lower limbs, and confined him entirely to bed. In this lamentable state he preserved the most equable frame of mind. His mental faculties and memory were not affected, and he received the visits of his friends with kindness and cheerfulness. His very latest years were devoted almost entirely to preparations for a future state. To his kind friend George Allan, esq., of Grange, on one of his last visits, Cade presented the Poly Olbion, Harding's Chronicle, Knight's Erasmus, and Clarendon. All his illustrated books of antiquities he had, he said, sent as a present to the son of his early benefactor in business, who, one is sorry to add, sold the volumes in Cade's lifetime. His reading was henceforth confined to religious subjects; and if he derived no very clear or actual theological knowledge from the vast mass of tracts and sermons which he devoured, yet were his individual views clear and cheerful, and he awaited his dissolution with firm resignation and unshaken reliance on his Saviour. He died at Gainford, and was interred with his parents at Darlington.—*Surtees*.

December 12.—Died, in Gateshead, the rev. John Baillie, aged 66 years. Mr. Baillie had been fourteen years minister of Sally-port chapel, in Newcastle. He published, besides several detached sermons, "Lectures on the Revelations," "History of the French War

from 1791 to 1802," and "An Impartial History of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1801," all in 8vo.—*Mackenzie*.

1806 (Dec. 21).—About ten o'clock on the morning, one of the arches of Haydon bridge, about ninety-five feet in span, which had long shewn evident signs of weakness and decay, fell with a tremendous crash, just at the time a number of people were passing to church. One unfortunate man sunk with the ruins to the depth of forty feet, but was taken out alive with a broken thigh bone, and otherwise much bruised.—*Local Papers*

December 25.—A furious storm of wind from the west was experienced in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. About noon, accompanied with rain, it became an absolute hurricane, in some places breaking down trees, in others tearing them up by the roots. In Newcastle, the massy boards composing the butcher's stalls in the old flesh market, were blown about in every direction; and the wood work of the vicarage pump, in Westgate-street, was torn away. Several stacks of chimneys fell; one in the Spital, broke through the roof of a house into the apartments. At Acomb, near Hexham, a spark was blown from a chimney, and set a stack on fire. The violence of the wind baffled every effort to extinguish the flames, all the stacks in the yard were burnt, and unfortunately the fire extended to the neighbouring cottages, about ten of which were reduced to ashes. The great circular west window in the tower of Shields church was blown in, during the time of administering the holy sacrament; and the organ, standing near the window was in imminent danger of being overturned. Many houses in Dockwray-square were damaged in their roofs, and one man nearly killed by the falling of a stack of chimneys.—*Ibid*.

December.—Bishopwearmouth church being much too small to contain the increased population of the place, and having become ruinous, the parishioners came to a resolution of re-building it. It is raised on the old foundations. The chancel was opened for divine service in 1808, and the whole work finished in 1810. At the same time a new burial ground was purchased, and, being enlarged by a parcel of the bishop's waste, was consecrated August 9th, 1810.—*Surtees*.

The church of Long-Newton, in the county of Durham, was, this year, almost wholly re-built.—*Ibid*.

This year, the church of Redmarshall, in the county of Durham, was repaired, and the lead removed.—*Ibid*.

This year the tolbooth and shambles at Barnard-castle, were removed, and the ground on which they stood added to the market-place. The market-cross, now called the town-hall, was at the same

time fitted up with a commodious room in the upper part, for holding the courts of the earl of Darlington, the monthly meetings of the magistrates, and other business of the township. Two shot-holes in the vane record the dexterity of one of the Barnard Castle volunteers, named Taylor, and Cruddas, game-keeper to the earl of Strathmore. This feat occurred in 1804; and they fired from opposite the door of the Turk's Head, in the Market-place, at more than one hundred yards distance from the town-hall.—*J. Gibson's MS., &c.*



TOWN-HALL, BARNARD CASTLE.

1806.—The Scotch church, North Sunderland, founded. The register of births extending from 1806, to 1838.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1807 (Feb. 28).—The new butcher market, on the south side of the High bridge, Newcastle, was opened for business.—*Local Papers.*

February.—The famous Durham ox was slaughtered. He was bred by Mr. Charles Colling, at Ketton, in 1796, and was supposed to weigh one hundred and sixty eight stones, when exhibited as a show in 1801, by Mr. Bulmer, who purchased him for £140., and in the same year sold him to Mr. John Day, for £250. This enormous animal, for which £2,000 was refused by Day, was exhibited for nearly six years in all parts of England and Scotland. When slaughtered he weighed two hundred and twenty stones.—*Guide to Dinsdale.*

March 11.—As a loaded coal cart, with two horses, were being backed to the door of a house near the top of the steps, leading from St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle; the cart, coals, horses, and man, were precipitated in a moment into Dean-street, a fall of not less than thirty feet, without receiving any material injury.—*Local Papers.*

March.—A woman named Hodgson, was at this period, residing in

a cottage on the Beaufront estate, near Hexham, at the great age of 105, years; in the full possession of her faculties, and in perfectly good health.—*Local Papers*.

1807 (April 8).—Died, at North Shields, Margaret Glanton, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

April 30.—About one o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the steam corn mill, belonging to Mr. John Crawford, near the high end of North Shields, which totally destroyed the same, as well as a small house on the opposite side of the street. The damage was estimated at £5,000.—*Ibid*.

This month, died at a village near Liverpool, the rev. George Walker, F. R. S., professor of Theology at the new college, and president of the philosophical and literary society of Manchester. Mr. Walker was born at Newcastle, in the year 1735.—*Ibid*.

May 1.—A tremendous thunder storm visited Newcastle and its neighbourhood. The electric fluid entered the dwelling-house of Mr. Jopling, marble mason, in Pilgrim-street, and did considerable damage to the rooms and to the furniture. Providentially no person was hurt, although Mrs. J. and several children were in a small room through which the lightning passed. A horse was killed at Hebburn, in a stable. A man standing on a pit heap, near the shaft of Urpeth colliery, had both his shoes torn from his feet, without receiving any personal hurt whatever. Great damage was also done in other parts of the country.—*Ibid*.

Died, this year, at Richardson's stead, near Berwick, Ann Ferguson, pauper, 107. She never used spectacles, and till within a year of her death, washed and mended her own clothes.—*Mon. Mag*.

May 5.—Was established "The South Shields Public Subscription Brewery," being, as is believed, the first joint stock establishment in the north of England. The capital of the company was £10,000, divided into five hundred shares of £20. each.—*Deed of Settlement*.

June 21.—A remarkable large eel, measuring 35 inches in length, 7½ inches girth over the shoulder, and weighing four pounds, was taken out of a small well in the village of Morwick, in Northumberland. The well did not exceed six feet in depth, and scarcely measured three feet in diameter, and had no visible communication with any river or pond. When first discovered, it was sporting on the surface of the water.—*Local Papers*.

July.—A sparrow built its nest at the top of the main-stay of the Gainsborough packet, lying at Newcastle quay, and deposited in it five eggs.—*Ibid*.

August 11.—Died, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, Elizabeth

Bickett, aged 103 years. Being a water carrier, she for many years enjoyed the title of "*Queen of the Pant.*"—*Local Papers.*

1807 (Sep. 5).—A cold wind from the N. E., accompanied with a heavy and incessant rain during the whole day and night, produced so remarkable a swell in the river Tyne, at Newcastle, that next morning (Sunday), the beautiful little island, called the King's meadows, was under water. Large masses of grain in sheaf, (wheat, rye, barley and oats,) came floating down, and several coal-keels, which put off for the purpose, got their loading with part of the wreck. A whole field of oats, the property of Mr. Forster, of Newburn-hall, valued at £300., was entirely swept away; and at several other places, along the banks of the river, similar losses were sustained. At Hexham, the united force of the wind and rain tore up several trees by the roots; and the low grounds near the town were covered with various descriptions of wreck. In a broad, but confined part of the north Tyne, near Haughton castle, the river was observed to obtain a rise of at least fifteen feet beyond its usual bounds.—*Ibid.*

September 29.—The foundation stone of the new light house, near the centre of the front of Dockwray's square, North Shields, was laid; at the same time the corporation of the Trinity house of Newcastle, contracted with the right honourable lord Collingwood for another piece of ground in the angle of the Low-light quay, for another light-house.—*Ibid.*

This month, a shark eight feet long, and weighing about three hundred pounds, was taken in the fishermen's nets at Whitburn, and afterwards taken to Newcastle. When opened, upwards of one hundred and thirty herrings and other small fish were found in its stomach.—*Ibid.*

October 7.—Earl Percy arrived at Durham and took up his freedom in the butchers' company, to which he was entitled by patrimony. The noble earl ordered an elegant dinner at the Wheat sheaf for his brethren of the trade. January 1808, a large and elegant silver punch bowl, the gift of earl Percy, was presented to the company, on which occasion, the company, with several other respectable gentlemen, held a meeting at the lord Nelson tavern, for the purpose of drinking the health of the noble donor.—*Ibid.*

November 10.—The foundation stone of the new church at Wall's end was laid in the presence of a numerous and respectable assemblage of spectators. After which, an elegant and appropriate address was delivered by the rev. Joseph Ireland. April 27th, 1809, this church and burial ground were consecrated by Thomas Burgess, D.D., lord bishop of St. David's. A most excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Henry Phillpotts, (now bishop of Exeter) after

which Mr. Shaw sung a beautiful piece of sacred music. The number of people present was computed at one thousand five hundred, and the services of the day were conducted in a very solemn manner. The Wallsend rifle corps lined the passage to the church.—*Local Papers.*



WALLSEND OLD CHURCH (1813).

November 12.—There was a heavy fall of sleet and snow in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which found its way even through solid brick walls exposed to the direct influence of the wind, and many houses were deluged. Almost all the shops and the lower stories of the houses on the north side of the Sandhill, and the Close, were overflowed from the high banks behind, and much damage was done. The cellars and kitchens of the houses in Pandon were filled, and great loss was experienced from the overflowing of the Ouseburn. The quay, to the extent of one hundred yards, which was built by Messrs. Hind and Co., was swept away by the current, and great damage was done to the houses and warehouses situated on the banks of that rivulet. Part of an unfinished house, near the churchway, North Shields, was blown down, and a part of the ruins penetrated an adjoining house, but happily no person was injured. The snow did not lie very thick in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, but westward of Hexham, and in the high lands about Alston, the roads were impassable. The storm unhappily proved fatal to Mr. James, farmer near Haltwhistle, who was out in the fields on horseback looking after his sheep, and was found dead not far from his own house, lying on his back, and his horse standing near him.—*Ibid.*

November 14.—Died, at Fallowden-house, in Northumberland, in the 79th year of his age, the right honourable Charles earl Grey, viscount Howick, and baron Grey de Howick, a general in the army, governor of Guernsey, and colonel in the 3rd regiment of dragoons. His lordship served at the battle of Minden, and was the only surviving

officer who served under general Wolfe at Quebec, to whom he was Aid-de-Camp. In 1782, he was made a knight of the Bath, on his appointment as commander in chief in America ; but in consequence of peace being concluded, he did not proceed thither. He served also at the relief of Ostend and Nieuport, in 1793 ; and went, soon after, to the West Indies, as commander in chief, with the earl of St. Vincent, which was followed by the reduction of Martinique, St. Lucie, and Guadaloupe. In 1802, he was created baron Grey : and on the 1st of April, 1806, his lordship was created earl Grey. In addition to the honours granted him by his sovereign for his many eminent services to his country during his military career, he received the thanks of both houses of parliament, and the corporation of London presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold box.—*Satirist, &c.*

1807 (Nov. 17).—The officers of the Percy Tenantry Cavalry presented their colonel, the right honourable earl Percy, at Alnwick castle, with a most magnificent and highly-finished sabre, with a Damascus blade, and on the scabbard was embossed in basso relievo, on one side, the various armorial bearings of the Percy family ; on the converse, military trophies under different forms.—*Local Papers.*

December 17.—The warehouses attached to the glass-house at South Shields, occupied by Messrs. Shortridge, Russell, and Barras, were completely destroyed by fire.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—Buried, at Bellingham, Northumberland, Edward Coulson, of Haydon-bridge, an eccentric character, and remarkable for his athletic and pedestrian feats.—*Mem. of E. C.*

December 29.—Three prisoners made their escape from the gaol in Newcastle, viz. John Willis, John Blakelock, and David Miller. Their efforts to break out of confinement had been continued for some time previous to their escape, as the north wall, through which they retreated, was at least a yard and a quarter in thickness, composed of immense masses of freestone. So silent and secret were their proceedings, that no suspicion was entertained by the gaoler or his assistants, and at the usual hour of inspection and locking up by the turnkey, on the very evening of their escape, all had the appearance of being orderly and safe ; their fetters seemed to be as firm as when first put upon the prisoners, and no flaw was observed in the wall. It appeared that the fragments of the wall, which had been removed in the intervals of time between the stated visits of the turnkey, had been so artfully replaced as to elude detection, and the fetters had been cut asunder by implements conveyed to them. The blankets, by which they had descended, were found upon a dung-hill below.—*Local Papers.*

December 30.—A stone coffin, about six feet in length, was dug

up in the old church at Hexham, on the north side of the place where the altar has stood. It had a thick stone cover, but no inscription whatever, nor any thing in the inside, excepting the bones of a dove entire, and some small pieces of glass, apparently gilt, but much worn off.—*Mon. Mag.*

1807 (Feb).—Died, at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth, John Ramsay, mariner, aged 115 years. He served in the capacity of cabin-boy on board one of the ships, in sir George Rooke's squadron at the taking of Gibraltar, in 1704. He retained all his faculties till within a few days of his death.—*Ibid.*

The Scale or Kale Cross, which stood at the foot of the Side, Newcastle, was, this year, taken down in order to widen and improve the street. It was presented by the corporation to its donor, sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and was set up in his grounds at Blagdon.—*Local Rec.*



SIDE, NEWCASTLE (1807).

The Wesleyan methodist chapel, North Shields, (parishes of Tynemouth and Earsdon) founded. The registers of births and baptisms 632 entries, extending from 1807 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1808 (Jan. 2).—The first number of the Berwick Advertiser newspaper, was published by Mr. Henry Richardson.—*Local Rec.*

January 14.—The crews of five boats belonging to Newbigging,

Blyth, and Hartley, and consisting in all of nineteen men, perished in a violent storm at sea. One family belonging to Newbigging, and of the name of Robinson, lost their father, three of his sons, and two nephews. This accident strongly excited the public sympathy, and collections and subscriptions to the amount of £1701. were raised for the benefit of the families of the sufferers—to the judicious distribution of which, a committee of gentlemen, of whom the late rev. John Smith, vicar of Newcastle, was an active member, paid great and meritorious attention.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

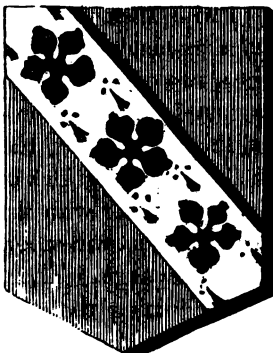
1808 (Jan. 19).—Died, Robert Melville, of South Shields, aged 103 years. He was a member of the Society of Friends.—*Local Papers.*

January 28.—Died, at Lowry's mill, near Bellingham, Mr. William Robley, aged upwards of 100 years, 70 of which he lived at Smalesmouth, in the same neighbourhood, as farmer and publican, and was much esteemed for his jokes and merry catches.—*Gent's Mag.*



1808 (March 30).—Died, at an advanced age, sir Henry Grey, bart. He was the elder brother of the late earl Grey, and uncle to the present; he never was married, and by his death earl Grey became possessed of estates to the value of near £30,000. per annum, besides a fortune for each of his younger children. Sir Henry left large legacies to each of his lordship's brethren and sisters, and made all his old servants comfortable for the remainder of their lives. On the 18th

of April, sir Henry's remains, in great funeral solemnity, passed through Newcastle, for interment in the family vault at Howick.—*Mon. Mag.*



March 31.—Died, in Newcastle, in his 89th year, Robert Roddam, of Roddam, in Northumberland, esq., senior admiral of the red. He was the son of Edward Roddam of Roddam and Little Houghton, esq., by Jane, daughter of Robert Shelly, esq., born at Richmond, and a merchant of Newcastle upon Tyne. April 24th, 1749, Admiral Roddam married Lucy Mary, daughter of the honourable admiral Clinton, uncle to the earl of Lincoln. She died at

New York in America, December 9, 1750, aged twenty-two.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1808 (April 13).—The first stone of an elegant new hall, in the market-place at Darlington, was laid by George Allan, esq., of Blackwell Grange, George Lewis Hollingsworth, esq., and Richard Hodgson, esq., of Darlington, on which occasion a great number of gentlemen were assembled. The bells were rung, and there were great rejoicings, throughout the day.—*Local Papers.*

April 19.—Being Easter Tuesday afternoon, the holyday people at the Forth, Newcastle, were disturbed in the enjoyment of their annual amusements by an affray of rather a serious nature, between some boys and a party of recruits of the Wiltshire militia. The boys, according to annual custom, were amusing themselves with a game at foot ball in the interior of the Forth, when the soldiers, no doubt for the sake of fun, interrupted them in the diversion, by running after them and tripping up their heels. The boys being reinforced by their friends, and encouraged by another party of military, set upon their opponents manfully, and with stones, brick bats, and other missiles, kept up such a determined discharge, that they compelled their antagonists, though superior in numbers, to seek their safety in a precipitate retreat. Luckily the scene of action being near the Infirmary, the wounded were conveyed thither. Two men received severe, but not dangerous, wounds on the head; the other accidents were mostly slight.—*Ibid.*

April 21.—Died, in the workhouse of St. Nicholas' parish, Durham, Ann Angus, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 26.—The new parade ground, in Percy-street, Newcastle, was opened for the first time on the evening of the above day, by the Newcastle volunteers, who were inspected there by colonel Rawdon.—*Ibid.*

April 27.—A very alarming fire broke out in the bark-mill belonging to Mr. Isaac Richardson, in his tan-yard near the White Cross, in Newgate-street, Newcastle, which raged with such violence, that in less than half-an-hour the mill fell with a tremendous crash, setting fire to four hay-stacks in an adjoining yard, two of which were entirely consumed, and the others very much damaged. At the commencement it seemed to threaten the whole of the buildings in the yard and its vicinity with destruction; but from the great exertions of the firemen belonging to the engines of the town, together with the assistance of the engine belonging the barracks on the town-moor, the flames were happily got under without further damage. There was a very large quantity of oil in the premises adjoining the mill, which, had the flames once caught, would certainly have laid the whole neighbourhood in ashes. The fire, it was ascertained, originated through the carelessness of the person who had charge of the

mill. On carrying some fire to his room on the previous night, he had dropped part of the hot coals amongst the bark, which continued burning until the morning, when it burst forth in the greatest fury imaginable. The loss was estimated at about £2000. No part of the property was insured.—*Newc. Papers.*



Houses at the entrance to Richardson's Tanyard.

1808 (May 4).—Died, in St. Giles'-gate, Durham, in his 96th year, William Cloyd. Among the many eccentric tricks of his youth, he once undertook to descend upon a rope from the steeple of St. Giles's church to the Bower Banks adjoining, and accomplished it unhurt. In 1739 he was with admiral Vernon at the taking of Porto Bello and Carthagen. In 1742 he was deprived of his eyesight by lightning upon the African coast; and after that became famous for dressing sheeps' feet which proved a very profitable trade to him, and enabled him to procure his quantum of ale, of which he consumed no small quantity. At cards and bowling matches Cloyd was generally one of the foremost, and frequently betted very freely. He enjoyed, in general, a very good state of health; and within the last twenty years has been seen to run round the feet of a large stool, turned topsy turvy, with his boots on. About twenty-six years ago, he was at a bowling match on Gilesgate moor, when a violent altercation arose about the position of the bowls; when Cloyd, starting from the crowd, cried out, "lead me to the place where the bowls are," on his arrival there, after groping awhile for the bowls, he cried out, "Any body may see that bowl is first." This created a loud laugh, and put all the parties in good humour again. About 18 years ago, he re-

ceived one of Hetherington's benefactions of ten pounds a year to blind men, upon which he subsisted till his death.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1808 (May 17).—Died, John Lord Delaval, of Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, aged 80 years. June 3rd, the corpse passed through Newcastle, for London, in great funeral pomp. The coffin was decorated with heraldic devices &c.—*Local Papers.*

May 15.—Sunday, died at Hebburn, the rev. William Glover, curate of Jarrow with Heworth; and on Tuesday following May, 17, when the rev. Richard Robinson, curate of Boldon, was going to bury for him, he suddenly died.—*Newc. Cour.*

This month, in digging into a mound of earth adjoining the south side of the ruins of Tynemouth priory, a capacious cemetery, or arched tomb, was discovered; some human bones of a large size, and skulls, were found on the floor, a few of them very perfect. It is not known that this place has been opened since the dissolution of the priory in 1539. During the siege of Tynemouth Castle, by Cromwell, above a century after that period king Charles the First's troops erected a battery, a little to the southward of this cemetery; the site yet remains pretty perfect. It appears they had dug out much earth to raise the battery, and had left off within six feet of the entrance into this cemetery.—*Mon. Mag.*

1808 (May).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. William Temple, weaver, many years foreman in Kidd's sail-cloth manufactory, and latterly governor of All Saints' poor-house. By a close and regular application of the few hours afforded from a laborious occupation, he had acquired an astonishing proficiency in most of the eastern languages, particularly the Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian; with the Greek and Latin, and some of the modern languages he was also well acquainted. The study of the original scriptures, with their various translations, was the object of his unwearied pursuit for a number of years, and few possessed equal talents for biblical criticism. With many of the peculiarities of a self-taught scholar he enjoyed a remarkable activity of mind and strength of understanding. He derived much pleasure from directing and assisting the studies of young persons, and not a few are indebted to him for his gratuitous instructions. Conscious of his own mental acquirements, and the rectitude of his moral principles, he indignantly spurned the pride and affectation of the wealthy, but the man of talents, or of moral worth, alike shared his friendship and assistance.—*Ibid.*

June 4.—In honour of his majesty's birth day, the new town's clock, placed on the top of the Subscription Library, at North Shields, was first set in motion. The ships in the harbour displayed their colours, and immediately on the clock striking twelve, twenty-one guns

were fired. Clifford's fort, the Spanish battery, and Tynemouth castle, also fired royal salutes. The clock was made by the late ingenious John Bolton, of Chester-le-Street.

At Newcastle, the day was ushered in by peals of bells from the several churches. At twelve o'clock, the Newcastle volunteers were formed upon the Sandhill, and fired three volleys in honour of the day. In consequence of the 4th of June falling on Saturday, his majesty's birth-day was celebrated by the military in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, on the Monday following. On Sunday several regiments marched into Newcastle and the neighbourhood, for the purpose of being present at the two next days' brigades, and on Monday, the troops assembled on the occasion were drawn up in two columns, the one in Northumberland-street and the other in Westgate street, and in that order marched to the Town-moor, where they were reviewed by lieutenant-general Dundas. The troops were formed in two lines, under the command of major-general Johnstone; the first line comprising the following regiments: four troops of the Enniskillen dragoons, the Gibside cavalry, the Axwell Park ditto, the Tyne legion ditto, a brigade of artillery, the East York militia, the Newcastle volunteer infantry, the North Shields and Tynemouth ditto, the Hexham and Corbridge ditto, the Newcastle associated ditto, and the Wallsend rifle corps. The second line consisted of a brigade of artillery, the Wiltshire militia, the Sunderland volunteer infantry, the Tyne legion ditto, the Gateshead ditto, and the Sunderland volunteer artillery. The two lines together formed upwards of 5,000 men. The business of the field being over, the troops were formed into a column of sections, and proceeded to their several parades in the town. On Tuesday morning, the two columns were ordered to assemble at six o'clock, in order to proceed by different routes to Throckley Fell, about eight miles from Newcastle; the right column under the command of lieutenant-general Dundas, and the left under the command of major-general Johnstone. During the march, a brigade of artillery joined the left column at Fenham, by which means a communication was kept up between the heads of the columns, by the firing of signal guns. The Wallsend rifle corps formed the advanced guard of the right column, and the Gateshead light company of the left column, who were joined by the light company of the Wiltshire militia, when the column entered on the Fell. The columns arrived at their places of destination within a few minutes of each other, and, as soon as the first was formed, the left column took up a position in its rear, ready to advance to its support. The ground occupied by the left of the second line was very much broken, the men being, for the greater part of the movements, up to

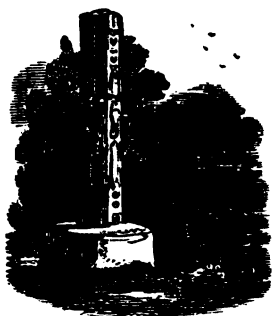
their waists in whins. The firing of the first line soon commenced, and the second line was ordered to file from the right of companies, and advanced to its support; having formed and fired, the second line retreated past the first, the retreat being covered by the light troops. After having alternately advanced and retreated several times, the second line by an *eschellon* movement, formed on the left of the first, and by that means presented a single line, extending upwards of a mile and a half. It then fired by companies from centre to flanks, by wings, and by battalions. The whole being formed into open column of subdivisions, crossed the Fell, and passed along the east side, covered by the Wallsend rifle and Gateshead light company, where the line was again formed, and fired by battalions. The line afterwards wheeled into open column of sections, and retreated from off the Fell, covered as before by the light troops. The whole then proceeded on their march to Newcastle, where they arrived about five o'clock. The next day the troops were highly complimented in the general orders that were issued.—*Local Papers*.

1808 (June 20).—Died, at the foot of the Manor chare, Newcastle, Mrs. Mary Graham, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

About this time, the remains of a fine sudatory were discovered at Whitley castle, Northumberland, at its north-east corner, out of which issued a clear and plentiful spring. In September, 1810, many of the pillars of the hypocaustum were standing, covered with large thin slabs of freestone, and a strong calcareous cement.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



CHAPTER IV.



N the month of June, 1808, James Guy, a shepherd, in the service of Mr. Archbold of Heton, Northumberland, in the act of skinning a sheep which had died of disease, and was at the time in a state of putrescence, accidentally cut one of his fingers with the knife. The effect of the poisonous matter was astonishing. Going home in the evening, he complained to his wife "that he had inoculated himself, and he already began to feel the bad consequences of it over all that side of his body on which the finger was cut." At five next morning medical assistance was sent for, but no kind of relief could be given; and with such rapidity did the mortific matter attack his system, that he became a corpse, in the highest degree of putridity, by 11 that day, being less than twenty-four hours from the introduction of the matter.—*Gent's Mag.*

July 18.—A whale was towed into Shields by a sloop, which found it floating near Holy Island. On being cut up, its jaw bones were found broken, caused, it is supposed by striking against rocks.—*Local Papers.*

July 19.—The elegant and commodious Catholic college and seminary at Ushaw, near Durham, was opened for the reception of students, by the ecclesiastics of the ancient English college of Douay. The buildings, which are of stone, form a spacious quadrangle.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died, at North Shields, Mrs. Jane Orean, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—Died, at Whitfield, in Northumberland, Mrs. Isabella Mandeville, relict of the rev. Richard Mandeville, formerly curate of

that parish, aged upwards of 100 years. She had been for some time before her death both blind and speechless.—*Local Papers.*

1808 (July).—A Jew found a noble of Henry IV., date 1399, amongst the rubbish of an old house, then pulling down in North Shields' Market-place. It was of pure gold, the impression perfect, and weighed 90 grains.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—Died, in the Wall-knoll, Newcastle, Mrs. Dorothy Turnbull, in the 107th year of her age. She was born on the 4th of July, 1702, in the reign of queen Ann, and until within three days of her death, possessed her faculties in an amazing degree. Her memory being little impaired, she could relate, with astonishing exactness, a variety of events which happened during the rebellion in 1715, and almost every subsequent event of any importance. About a month before her death, she made herself a petticoat without the aid of spectacles, when she was heard to observe, that "*she had lived to such an age, that Newcastle could not furnish her with a pair to assist her sight.*" On the Friday preceding her death, she walked to Low Friar-street, where she drank tea with a friend, who lived in the curious old house with the ornamented front, but before returning home, she grew very low spirited, and seemed conscious of her approaching dissolution; the next day, she was confined to her bed, and on the Monday her existence was terminated.—*Ibid.*

August 8.—Newcastle and its neighbourhood were visited by one of the most awful thunder storms ever remembered. The flashes of lightning were terrific in the extreme. The house of Mrs. Raisbeck, in Westgate-street, Newcastle, was very much damaged. The lightning struck the back part, entered the usual dining-room of the family, shivered a door to pieces, and drove the fragments along the passage into the front room, tore the plaster off the wall, and damaged some of the furniture. Several of the bell-wires in the house were melted, and a black mark of considerable depth left along the walls where they were. Some of the windows were shattered to pieces, and a hole was driven through a thick chimney wall, where the lightning had struck upon a nail. Mrs. Raisbeck and her daughter had a most providential escape, having removed from the room where the principal damage occurred a short time before, to avoid the glare of the lightning. In the next house, occupied by Mr. Jobling, some of the bell-wires were melted, windows broken, and the top of a bed-post struck off. A painter at work in the inside of the house, next door to Mr. Jobling's, was struck down, but being bled, he recovered. Some tiles were taken off Mr. Leighton's house on the opposite side of the street, but no other damage was sustained than that caused by the torrent of rain which rushed in. Two men at work in the neigh-

bouring chapel were thrown against each other by the shock, but not much hurt. The house of Mr. Farrington, in the Bigg-market, was also struck, and the bell-wires of two rooms and of the staircase melted. The common sewer at the head of the Side was so full charged with water in consequence of the heavy rain, that the pavement was forced up for several yards, and the water issued from the aperture for a considerable time, as if thrown from an engine. The lightning struck the house of James Losh, esq., at Jesmond, in two places. The funnel on the top of the library chimney was broken in pieces, thence it passed down the chimney into the library, throwing down the soot, and singeing the hearth-rug. It also entered by a window on the stair-head, struck a barometer hanging by the side of the window, which it shivered to pieces, passed along all the bell-wires, and went round the gilt frame of a large picture in the drawing-room, which it completely tarnished, then pierced the wall a little above the chimney-piece, and disappeared. A large rent was likewise made in the wall, communicating with a closet in the kitchen, the lock of the door forced off, and two balls of fire appeared to the servants to fall on the kitchen floor, and escape by the door. Fortunately no one was hurt, although part of the family were on the stair-head when the barometer was broken, and the servants were in the kitchen when the fire passed through it. Mr. Maddison's house, at Birtley, was struck, the funnels thrown from the chimneys, several windows with their frames torn in pieces, and the coping-stones on the gable end of the house carried to a considerable distance. At Lumley, near Chester-le-street, the lightning entered the roof of a house, and killed a woman in the lower room. Mr. John Sheradon, of Houghton-gate, had a cow killed in a field near that place. Mr. Kirkup, of Urpeth had seven lambs killed near his house. The lightning entered the roof of the house of John Cole, at High Chater's-haugh, and forced off the head of the clock, and broke it to pieces; it then went up the chimney, without doing any further damage. At Dipton, a horse and several sheep were killed in the fields. The Seven Stars public-house, on Gateshead Fell, was also struck; some cattle were also killed in that direction. Some women in a cart had a narrow escape, as the cart was much damaged. A windmill belonging to Mr. Hodgson, on the Leazes, near Newcastle, was struck, and two of the wands were completely shattered, and a large piece of iron carried to a considerable distance. As the daughter of Mr. Pollock, sign of the rose, Half-way-bank, between Shields and Newcastle, was standing at the back door, with a comb in her hand, the lightning struck the back of the comb, singed it, and curled up some of the teeth, without doing the least injury to the girl. A new smelting mill at Derwent-heads,

near Blanchland, was nearly swept away by the flood, together with a considerable quantity of lead ore.—*Local Papers*.

1808 (August 4).—This month, the White-cross, in Newgate-street, Newcastle, was carefully taken down, and removed to the new butcher-market, at the north end of which it was rebuilt, in a lengthened form, for the accommodation of persons attending the butter market. The annexed engraving shews the form of the cross previous to its removal from Newgate-street.—*Local Rec.*



WHITE CROSS, NEWCASTLE (1808).

September 1.—Martin O'Bryan was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for robbing and cutting the throat of Barbara Weir, upon Shields road.—*Local Papers*.

September 4.—There were great rejoicings at Newcastle, on the arrival of the news that sir Arthur Wellesley (the present duke of Wellington) had defeated the French under the command of general Junot, at Vimeira, in Portugal, on the 21st of the preceding month. This was the first engagement between the English and the French on the peninsula.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—Died, at Berwick, Mrs. Isabella Hounim, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

October 6.—Died, near Corbridge, Mrs. Hodgson, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

October.—This month, some workmen employed in lowering the foot-path, near the north-west porch of Monkwearmouth church, discovered the effigy of a Benedictine monk in his full habit, the hands clasped on the breast. The figure was placed in the chancel of the church.—*Surtees*.

November 3.—At four o'clock in the afternoon, his Majesty's ship,

Bucephalus, was launched from the building yard of Mr. William Row, at St. Peter's quay, near Newcastle. She was rated at thirty-two guns, but was pierced for fifty-two, and measured 970 tons. An immense concourse of spectators was present at the launch. The bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a merry peal in honour of the event. November 17, was launched from the same yard, a very handsome small ship of war, called the Woodlark.—*Local Papers*.

1808 (Nov. 8).—A dreadful fire took place at East Lilburn, in the parish of Eglingham, in Northumberland. As Mr. Brewis's servant was going to bed with a candle, about ten o'clock, either from a spark from the candle or not extinguishing it, the stable caught fire, and, melancholy to relate, ten horses were burnt to death, and the lad escaped with difficulty, without his clothes.—*Ibid*.

November 13.—A new Methodist chapel was opened at Durham, for public worship; the rev. Jabez Bunting, of Sheffield, preached to a crowded audience, from Psalm, xx. verse 4.—*Ibid*.

November 29.—An explosion took place in Harraton colliery, Durham, by which unfortunate occurrence four human beings and twenty-one horses lost their lives. The coal was set on fire by this explosion, and the shafts were tightly scaffolded to exclude the air, for the purpose of smothering the fire. The pits were opened at the end of two months, when the fire in the coal was found to be extinguished; but, to the astonishment of every body, a pony was found alive, and in high condition. This pony had a trick of slipping his halter, and wandering about the workings. The explosion happened just after the men had finished their day's work, and the horses, twenty-two in number, had been tied up in the stables. It was supposed that this pony had slipped his halter, and gone upon his rambles as usual, as all the remaining twenty-one horses were killed in the stables by the explosion. It would seem that the life of this pony had been preserved by the fresh air which was sent up in the rise part of the workings, and he had lived upon the forage of his dead companions. He survived the accident many years.—*Ibid*.

December 15.—A terrible fire broke out betwixt one and two o'clock on the morning of this day, in a kitchen, under the shop and parlour of George Carr, tallow-chandler, Hexham, which threatened destruction to a vast pile of buildings, and it was not known to the family above, until they were almost suffocated. Mrs. Carr, Miss Robson, and three of the children, threw themselves from the window of the room above the parlour, with very little injury. Two other children nearly suffocated, were taken from an upper room, by Mr. James Meston. The fire was occasioned, it was supposed, by a spark falling upon some linen upon a clothes horse.—*Ibid*.

1808 (Dec. 22).—A very alarming fire took place in the mansion of Charles John Brandling, esq., at Gosforth, exactly at the moment of the family sitting down to dinner, which was occasioned by the careless manner of joiners, in the erection of buildings, driving wooden plugs into the walls of the chimneys, for the purpose of fixing their joiner-work. In this case, the wooden plugs, to which the joiner-work of the elegant saloon was fixed, took fire, from the heated chimney of the library. However, the devouring element was happily discovered in time, and fortunately extinguished by the active exertions of the family and domestics, before any considerable damage was sustained.—*Local Papers*.

December 24.—Being Christmas eve, the clock which graces the tower of Durham cathedral first began to chime the quarters. It is the workmanship of the late ingenious John Bolton, and is put in motion by a clock which stands upon the ground floor, at a distance of above three hundred feet. This last, which was placed there by Dean Hunt and the chapter, in the year 1652, is a very elegant and curious piece of mechanism. It exhibits a view of the planets and their motions, and shews the variations of the moon; it points out the day of the month, and the moon's age, with several other curious exhibitions.—*Ibid*.

1808.—Nearly the whole of the old castle of Ravensworth, Durham, was taken down, and the present splendid mansion was begun on a plan furnished by Nash; the stile of the building is a selection from the castle architecture of various periods, not, however, too remote to be brought into contact; the various towers and facades produce pleasing combinations in every point of view, and the outline against the sky is extremely good. The castle has three fronts, north, south, and west; the eastern side is closed in by offices, and by rising plantations, destined to exclude the view of Gateshead Fell; two of the old towers are incorporated with the offices. On the private road



RAVENSWORTH OLD CASTLE 1783

near the castle there is a cross, a plain shaft and pedestal. The common tradition is, that when Newcastle in the reign of Elizabeth was infected with the plague, the country people left their provisions at this place for the supply of the town.—*Local Rec.*

1808.—A school on the Madras system was established at Wearmouth, under the personal direction of Dr. Bell, and a neat school-house, with two separate rooms for the boys and girls, was built by subscription, opposite to the west end of the church. The whole expense amounted to about £500.—*Ibid.*

This year, in breaking up a freestone quarry, near Bamborough, where the ground seemingly had never been opened before, a vast quantity of the horns of deer (supposed to be red) were found buried full four feet under a solid body of earth. Most of them, when exposed to the air, mouldered and fell in pieces, except two, which were in high preservation. They were each about three feet long, and all their ramifications quite entire. They were carefully suspended in Bamborough castle as curiosities. In digging them up, it appeared that whole carcases had been entombed there, for the skulls of some of them were not severed from the horns, and even an offensive smell arose from the soil in which they were buried.—*Ibid.*

This year, died, at Berwick, John Chisholm, aged 74 years. He had served under general Wolfe at Quebec, and was reckoned one of the best swordsmen in the army. On his retirement from the army, he became a Chelsea pensioner. It was believed that he was heir-at-law to a large property. Though, like Dancer and Elwes, he was continually employed in picking up pieces of rope, stick, &c. in the streets, upwards of five hundred guineas in gold were found secreted in various parts of his house.—*Ibid.*

Robert Sanderson, who also served under general Wolfe, died at Ford, in Northumberland, August 7th, 1807, aged 85 years. As Chisholm was a good swordsman, so Sanderson was famous as a marksman, and he is generally understood to have been the man who shot the French commander, general Montcalm. He was orderly serjeant to Wolfe, and is the figure represented in the print of the death of Wolfe, as supporting the general after he received his death wound.—*Ibid.*

1808.—Chapter-row chapel (Wesleyan Methodist), South Shields, (parish of Jarrow), Durham, founded. The register of births and baptisms 82 entries, extends from 1823 to 1837. The chapel was built by subscription, and was opened February 26, 1809, by the rev. Dan. Isaac, who preached to a crowded audience.—*Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

The Independent chapel Staindrop, founded. The register of births and baptisms 57 entries, extends from 1806 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1808.—Swedenborgian chapel, Percy-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, founded. The register of births and baptisms, 263 entries, extending from 1808 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1809 (Feb. 10).—As some workmen were digging the foundation of a new waggon-way through the estate of John Stafford, esq. of White-house, near Newcastle, an immense quantity of very valuable and ancient coins of gold, silver, and copper were discovered—*Local Papers.*

March 8.—Died, at Washington Wood, Sarah Hudson, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

April 16.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mr. John Pattinson, aged 104 years. He enjoyed all his faculties till within a few days of his death, particularly his eye-sight, as he could read the smallest print without glasses.—*Ibid.*

May 11.—Being Ascension-day, a terrible accident happened as the barges passed up the river, on board of the Hartford, lying at Newcastle quay. Thomas Heron, the mate, having fired a gun in salute, was reloading it without spunging, when the charge took fire, and blew him overboard. A finger was left on deck, and, from the circumstance of his hat being much cut, it was supposed that his head had been blown off.—*Ibid.*

May 15.—The inhabitants of Alnwick and its vicinity were gratified by the completion of an undertaking hitherto unattempted in that quarter, viz. the delivering of coals at Alnwick, from Shilbottle colliery, by waggons conveyed along a metal railroad.—*Mon. Mag.*

May 17.—The opening of the waggon-way from Bewicke main to the river Tyne took place, on which occasion every road leading to it was crowded with passengers at an early hour, and before eleven o'clock, about ten thousand people were assembled. About this time, four waggons of small coals were brought up the first plane by the steam-engine, to the great admiration of the spectators; but owing to some unexplained circumstance, the four waggons of best coals intended for the Tyne, did not start till a much later hour. As soon as the waggons reached the summit of the second and highest plane, up which they went with surprising velocity and regularity, the British flag was hoisted at Ayton cottage; and the event was announced by a discharge of six pieces of cannon, which were answered by an equal number from the Ann and Isabella, his majesty's armed ship on the Tyne, and from Deptford-house, the residence of Mr. Cooke. Immediately on the waggons reaching the first plane, about four hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner, in a tent fitted up for the occasion. An excellent military band attended. In the evening, in order to prove the excellence of the level railway, six men, without horses,

took with the greatest ease four laden waggons, with each ten men on the top, from Ayton cottage to the Tyne; and the first coals being put on board the *Ann* and *Isabella*, the discharges of artillery were repeated.—*Local Papers*.

1809.—This year, the greater part of the foundations of Horton castle, near Sighill, Northumberland, were rased and the ramparts levelled into its moat. It dates its origin as early as the time of Henry III. It was of considerable importance and defended by a double moat and rampart.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

In the spring of this year, as some workmen were levelling a piece of ground on an allotment of Aydon common, in Northumberland, belonging to Mr. Bulman of Newcastle, they found an urn with the mouth downwards, which would hold about four gallons, having a smaller one within it, with the mouth also downwards, and which contained a quantity of small bones, which crumbled to pieces on being removed.—*Local Papers*.

May 30.—The society of Arts presented to Mr. Luke Clennell, a native of Morpeth, and who had been a pupil to Mr. Thomas Bewick, of Newcastle, a medal, for an engraving on wood of the Highland society's diploma. May 27th, 1806, Mr. Clennell was presented by the same society with the gold pallet, for an engraving on wood of a battle.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—The drying-house of Mrs. Cook at Athelstone abbey paper-mill, near Barnard-castle, was discovered to be on fire. She and her two daughters, in endeavouring to remove what paper they could, were soon enveloped in flames. The neighbouring farmers, after the alarm was given, were obliged to break in the shutters, and with much difficulty got them out of the place from the top windows. Mrs. Cook was carried down apparently lifeless, and expired the next day; the eldest daughter leaped out of one of the windows, but was so much burnt that her life was despaired of; the other was carried down in the same manner as her mother, nearly suffocated.—*Ibid.*

July 31.—A grand masonic procession took place from the Granby lodge-room, in old Elvet, Durham, at half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the county courts, new gaol, &c., in that city. It was performed by sir H. V. Tempest, bart., P.G.M. *pro tem.* assisted by R. J. Lambton, P.G.M., and the officers and brethren of the provincial grand lodge of the county, in presence of the lord bishop of Durham, the magistrates, clergy, and gentry of the county, and the corporation of the city. When the masonic procession were in the street, they were honoured with a salute from colonel Shipperdson and the Durham volunteers, who were drawn out to join them; and the bishop of Durham, magis-

trates, &c., joined in the procession soon after. When the front of the procession arrived at the ground, the volunteers filed off, and formed three sides of a square to keep the ground. When the grand master arrived in the trench, he, with the provincial officers, formed on three sides of the stone, and the bishop, magistrates, &c., at a little distance on the fourth side. The bishop then deposited gold, silver, and copper coins of the reign of king George III., in a chamber in the stone, which was covered by a plate, with a suitable inscription. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone having been gone through, the volunteers saluted, the band playing "*God Save the King.*" The procession then proceeded to the Assembly rooms, in the Bailey, where the bishop took his leave, and the company sat down to an excellent dinner. The county courts were opened August 14th, 1811. The prisoners were not removed from the old gaol and house of correction till August 3rd, 1819.—*Surtees.*

1809.—This year, during the month of August in which Stockton races are held, the race course was so much flooded by the river, that, in some places, the horses ran belly deep in water. The course, which is considered a very good one, is a mile in circuit. The races here were discontinued from 1815 to 1825; and, though revived and carried on regularly since the latter date, they are not well attended.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur.*

August 1.—A violent thunder storm, accompanied with rain and hail, took place at Alnwick; the electric fluid entered the house of Major Castles, and shivered a bed-stead to pieces, tore the wall in several places, and completely demolished the bell-wires; a servant maid was in the bed-room, but escaped unhurt; it left such a sulphureous smell in the house that they could scarcely breathe in it for some time.—*Local Papers.*

August 3.—Newcastle was visited by a most awful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by a torrent of rain, and a great quantity of hail. During the whole afternoon, which was very close and sultry, distant thunder was heard in the south east; about half past five, the storm reached that place, and continued about an hour, during which time the flashes of lightning followed each other in awful and rapid succession, with such tremendous thunder, as threatened to dissolve the town, and

"Leave not a wreck behind!"

The deluge of rain and hail that fell, speedily inundated the streets, and must have caused considerable damage in the lower parts of the town. The injury done by lightning was very great, as will appear by the following particulars:—A ball of electric matter entered the house of Mr. D. Sutton, in Prince's-street. It first struck the chimney top,

which it threw down, partly into the street, and partly into the house. It then followed the direction of the chimney into the sitting parlour, in which were eight persons, dashed part of the tea equipage upon the floor, shivered the book-case, and, proceeding towards the door, which was fortunately open, burst with a dreadful explosion, followed by six small ones, but, fortunately, injured no person seriously. Two ladies were slightly struck, one on the side of her head, and the other's mit was singed, and her arm slightly affected; a gentleman of the party was also slightly struck in the face. The electric fluid then communicated with the bell-wires, which it melted all over the house, following them from room to room, in an upward direction, tearing up the floors, &c. in its passage; it broke the glass of a clock, and stopped it, shivered three bed poles, and finally passed out at the upper part of the house. In the different rooms twenty-one squares of glass were broken and forced outwards, and in one of the rooms Mr. Sutton had a most providential escape, being there with the intention of shutting a window at the time it was struck. The effect produced on the bell wires was beautiful beyond description. Immediately after the explosion, the sitting room was filled with smoke, attended with such a strong smell of sulphur, as rendered it dangerous to remain in the room. The door jamb of the adjoining house was also torn off. The lightning also struck down a chimney and entered the roof of Mr. Humble's dwelling-house, near the Forth, and at the same time shattered one of the pillars of the front door, communicating with and destroying all the wires of the bells in the first and second stories; shattered the stock of a gun in the kitchen, also the window shutters of three rooms, singeing the paper, and tossing about the lime from the tops of the windows wherever the bell-wires communicated; then bursting out of the back-staircase window, with a dreadful explosion, similar to the discharge of a cannon, and filling the different rooms with black sulphureous smoke. Providentially none of the family were materially hurt. Mrs. Humble was deprived of her hearing for a few minutes, and experienced a numbness in one arm; one of the servants was slightly scorched in her hand. Mrs. Hawks' house, near Jesmond, was struck; and the works of a gold watch, which was hanging up in one of the rooms, were melted, and considerable damage done to the walls, pictures, &c. The lightning set a bark mill near St. Andrew's church, on fire, but fortunately it was extinguished without much damage, except to the wands and one beam. On the same day the house of Mr. Usha, at Preston, near North Shields, suffered materially by the lightning, which entered the chimney, and made its way to a front room on the ground floor, where it damaged some of the furniture; it then broke the partition betwixt

the room and the kitchen, where it struck one of Mr. Usha's daughters to the ground, and severely burnt her neck and arms; it then shattered another partition, in its course to a back kitchen, whence it forced its way out of the house through a strong wall, which it considerably rent and damaged. A lamb was struck dead, amongst many others, belonging to a butcher at North Shields.—*Local Papers.*



BARK MILL, ADJOINING ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH-YARD (1843).

1809 (Aug. 12).—One of the heaviest showers of rain ever remembered fell in Newcastle, and its neighbourhood. It continued with little intermission for the space of six hours, with such violence, that every brook and rivulet were swollen to a most alarming height. The small stream of water, which runs through Pandon, in that town, overflowed its banks, and inundating most of the houses in new Pandon street, and the Stock bridge, to the depth of three or four feet of water. A boy, named George Innis, about five years old, son of George Innis, smith, Pandon-gate had a most miraculous escape. Whilst amusing himself along with several other children, with wading in the water near the mustard-mill, at the foot of Pandon dean, he ventured too far into the stream, and was swept away, by the impetuosity of the current. Near the place from whence he was taken away, the water entered an enclosed conduit, through which

he was carried for the space of three hundred yards, and precipitated with great fury down a fall of sixteen feet in the midst of its course. At the extremity of the conduit, he was most providentially perceived by a man, who, at the imminent hazard of his own life, sprang into the water, and succeeded in rescuing him from his perilous situation; and such was the rapidity of the current, that it was with great difficulty the man was prevented from being borne away by it. The boy, when first taken out, exhibited very little appearance of animation, but in a short time he came to himself, having received only some bruises. At four o'clock the same afternoon, a short but severe thunder storm passed over that town. A man of the name of Henderson, of Angerton moor, who had run for shelter into a shed at the Cowgate on the town-moor, was, together with four horses, struck dead by the lightning. It was somewhat remarkable, that the hat of the deceased was torn from his head, and forced upwards with such force, as to be closely jammed in the crevice, of two boards which were placed immediately over the place where he had been standing. Another man and a boy, and two other horses, in the same place at the time, were also struck down, but afterwards recovered. Several cows and horses at the fair, at that time holding on the Cowhill, were scorched by the lightning. A man named Liddell, servant to Mr. Freeman, near West Jesmond, in endeavouring to cross the Ouseburn, near that place, with a horse, was unfortunately drowned; the horse was saved.—*Local Papers.*

1809 (Aug. 16).—Lord Barnard, the eldest son of the earl of Darlington, attained the age of 21 years, upon which occasion, a plentiful dinner was provided at Raby castle, for his lordship's tenantry. The park guns were fired at one o'clock, and a ball was given to the tenants' wives and daughters in the evening. An ox was roasted whole at Darlington, and distributed with plenty of bread and ale to the populace; another was roasted and distributed in like manner at Piersebridge; a third at Staindrop; a fourth at Cockfield; a fifth at Barnard-castle, and a sixth at Middleton-in-Teesdale, at all of which places, there were great rejoicings.—*Ibid.*

August 19.—John Boyd was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for a forgery on the Durham bank. He was taken to the place of execution in a chaise, handsomely dressed in a suit of black, with black silk stockings, in which attire, at his own request, he was deposited in the earth. This unfortunate young man, who was only twenty one years of age, had very respectable connexions in Ireland, but had assumed a false name, that this history of his guilt might never reach the knowledge of his friends and relatives.—*Ibid.*

September 12.—While Alexander Blackett, keelman, was sitting

on the edge of the quay at Newcastle, with a child in his arms, he was seized with a fit, fell into the river, and was drowned. He had the presence of mind to throw the child from him on to the quay, whose life was thereby saved.—*Genl's. Mag.*

1809 (Sep. 14).—An explosion took place in Killingworth colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence twelve human beings lost their lives.—*Local Papers.*

September 15.—Mr. J. Storey, of Cambois, near Blyth, who had been fishing at sea for his amusement, returned at the dusk in the evening, and immediately proceeded home to announce his arrival to his family, when his two daughters, one aged 14, the other 22 years, proposed to accompany him to the shore, in order to assist in securing the boat. The eldest daughter and father proceeded towards the boat, while the youngest staid at a distance with the light, which suddenly disappearing, the other sister went to ascertain the cause, when, melancholy to relate, the wretched father never beheld them again in existence. It is supposed that they had got on a quicksand at the edge of the river, and sank. The eldest was found floating at sea on the following day, and the other along the shore. October 25th, the unhappy parent, in a fit of despondency for the loss of his daughters, terminated his life by throwing himself into the river with a large stone tied about his waist. He left a widow and six children.—*Ibid.*

October 17.—Mr. Sinton, of the Shield-field mill, near Newcastle, having stopped the mill and ascended the wands to adjust the sail, the brake suddenly gave way, and he was carried round upon the wand with great velocity for near a quarter of an hour. His distressing situation being perceived by the men of Pandon dean mill, assistance was immediately sent, and he was rescued from his perilous situation without having received any bodily injury; it was, however, a considerable time before he recovered his recollection.—*Ibid.*

October 25.—The jubilee, on his majesty's (king George III.) entrance into the 50th year of his reign, was celebrated in Newcastle by public rejoicings, and acts of munificence and liberality;—it having been ascertained that it would be more grateful to the feelings, not only of the monarch, but also of the subject, that in lieu of an illumination, a collection should be made for the foundation of a public school, upon the plan of Mr. Lancaster and Dr. Bell, several respectable persons obligingly undertook to wait upon the inhabitants on the two preceding days for their contributions, when upwards of £600. were collected. By another subscription, commenced among the ladies and gentlemen, ten prisoners were liberated from the gaol. To this last the corporation subscribed 50 guineas, and the members of parlia-

ment for the town 30 guineas, making in all £186. 17s. 6d. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, the flag was hoisted on the castle, flags were also displayed upon some of the churches, and also by the ships in the river. The Union society of change-ringers rang in St. Nicholas' belfry a complete peal of Holt's grandsire triples, consisting of five thousand and forty changes, in three hours and nineteen minutes. The Newcastle associated volunteer infantry, under the command of sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., marched to St. Nicholas' church, as did also the West Suffolk, the Royal artillery,



ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, FROM THE GROAT MARKET (1827).

and the 6th dragoons; the mayor and magistrates attended divine service, also lieutenant-general Dundas and his staff; an excellent sermon, from the 3rd chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Hebrews, part of the 4th verse, was preached by the rev. John Smith, A.M., vicar; after which the above mentioned corps, with the Newcastle volunteers, and South Tyne legion, proceeded to the town-moor, where

they were drawn up in line, and after the artillery had fired a royal salute of twenty-one guns, made three excellent vollies in honour of the day; they then marched past lieutenant-general Dundas. The volunteers proceeded to the Sandhill, and fired three vollies. The mayor, the members of the town, the sheriff, lieutenant-general Dundas and his staff, sir C. M. L. Monok, and about eighty gentlemen, dined at Loftus's; the band of the armed association attended. Upwards of five hundred poor persons belonging to the parish of St. Nicholas dined in the yard of the poor house of that parish. By the hospitality of Major Anderson, and a few other benevolent burghesses, the poor members of the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor chare, dined together on the green before the house. The boys and girls in each of the charity schools were dined, by order of a party of gentlemen, who, after the children had dined, ordered the teachers a dinner, and a bottle of wine each. Sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., distributed beef and bread to fifty poor housekeepers in Gallowgate. The congregation of the rev. William Turner, in Hanover square, gave to each of the poor belonging to that chapel, beef, bread, porter, tea, and lump-sugar, to be used at their own houses. Lieutenant-colonel Burdon presented the officers of the South Tyne legion with a dinner at Forster's, the Queen's Head inn; and an elegant cup, of the value of £120., was presented by the non-commissioned officers and privates of that regiment to their commandant, who provided a dinner for them, in a field near West Jesmond. In the evening, there was a ball and a supper at the Assembly-rooms, which was numerously attended.

The inhabitants of the city of Durham evinced their attachment to their sovereign, by various acts of munificence, extending to their dependents and inferior's satisfaction and comfort, and expressive of their own contentment and happiness. Exclusive of a large sum appropriated by the reverend the dean and chapter for the liberation of prisoners confined for small debts, a general collection, amounting to £120., was made and distributed to more than one thousand poor families. Thomas Wilkinson, of Oswald-house, esq., presented to a great number of poor old persons two shillings and sixpence each; upwards of five hundred charity children were also enabled to participate in the general festivity. Besides the masonic, there were several select dinner parties. A ball and supper at Alsop's rooms, were most fashionably and numerously attended.

The jubilee was celebrated at Alnwick with uncommon festivity and joy. An appropriate sermon was preached in the parish church by the rev. Mr. Proctor, to a crowded audience; each freeman and freeman's widow received one guinea to drink his majesty's health.

The chamberlains and council dined at the Black Bull. The Percy tenantry were posted upon the extensive ramparts of the castle, and the artillery at the battery, and the cavalry, were drawn up on the plain before the battery, when three *feux de joie*, were fired throughout the whole, which had a most beautiful effect. After which, the officers dined at the castle with earl Percy, their colonel; and the different companies at the various inns.

At Berwick, the day was ushered in with the ringing of bells. In the forenoon, the mayor and the magistrates attended divine service at church, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. Joseph Barnes, the vicar. After the service in the church was concluded, the Forfarshire militia marched from the barracks to the walls, and being stationed at proper distances round the fortifications of the town, fired three *feux de joie*, the cannon firing betwixt each round of the infantry, twice seventeen and once sixteen times, making fifty rounds in honour of the day. The militia having marched into the parade, fired three excellent vollies. Colonel Allan, M.P., gave a dinner to above six hundred boys, mostly belonging to the schools in the town, the masters of which attended. The mayor, magistrates, and a great number of gentlemen, dined at the Red Lion inn. In the evening, there was a ball at the Assembly-room; there was also a ball and supper at the town-hall (which, with the spire, was illuminated), given by colonel Allan, both of which were numerously attended. The evening's amusements out of doors concluded with fire-works.

Every town, and many of the villages within the counties of Durham and Northumberland, evinced their joy and gratitude at their beloved monarch's lengthened years.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1809 (Nov. 22).—Died, in the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor chare, Newcastle, Mary Huntley, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

This year, died at Wingate grange, in the county of Durham, Mr. T. Watson, aged 106 years.—*Ibid.*

An act was this year passed for constituting Gateshead Fell a separate rectory, and one acre of ground was ordered to be allotted to the rector of Gateshead, for the site of a church and church-yard, leaving, however, the whole of the original parish united as to the joint maintenance of the poor. The foundation stone of a new church on Gateshead Fell was laid May 13th, 1824.—*Ibid.*

An act was also obtained this year for paving, watching, lighting, and cleansing the town of Sunderland; for removing the market, for building a town-hall or market-house, and otherwise improving the said town, and for establishing a watch on the river Wear.—*Ibid.*

The Bible society for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which originated in the benevolent mind of the late Mr. Charles Newby Wawn, was in-

stituted this year. From its last report (1842) we find that during the thirty-three years of its establishment it has purchased for the use of its depôt forty-one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight Bibles and forty-five thousand, three hundred and eighty-two New testaments, thus putting into circulation eighty-seven thousand, two hundred and seventy copies of the Holy Scriptures.—*J. Fenwick's Col.*



OLD MOOT HALL (1809). -

1809.—The Moot-hall, in the Castle-garth, Newcastle, long used for the keeping of assize, sessions, and gaol-delivery, for the county of Northumberland, was pulled down, when it exhibited a curious mixture of Roman, Norman, Gothic, and modern architecture. Its eastern wall, which was of vast thickness, appeared to have been the wall of the Roman station. It was built of square tessellated ashler work, and ranged with a similar wall, whose foundations were shortly afterwards discovered in preparing for the erection of the County-courts. At the north end of the Moot-hall was a range of low Norman arches and pilasters, and its roof was supported by two heavy pointed arches. This old hall occupied the area before the entrance to the present courts.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

A buoy, stationed about two miles to the north-east of Bamborough-castle, in Northumberland, was, in the winter of this year, carried away in a violent storm, and found, together with a large piece of metal, which served as an anchor, on the sand near Nova-Scotia.—*Local Papers.*

This year and the following, Collingwood-street, in Newcastle (called after the gallant admiral), was formed, and the houses which stood near the north porch of St. Nicholas' church, were pulled down,

by which a large area, called St. Nicholas' square, is formed in front of that elegant structure.—*Local Papers.*

1809.—Zion chapel, (Methodist new connexion) Sunderland, founded. The registers of births and baptisms, extending from 1811 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

At the binding of the colliers, which took place at this time, in the month of October, the owners by a previous agreement among themselves, but which had not been made known to the men, proposed that the men should be engaged for a quarter, or a year and a quarter, which would bring the binding to the latter end of December, or beginning of January, to which the men agreed; but upon mature deliberation they found that they had done wrong, and, accordingly, on the 16th of October, 1810, a meeting of delegates was held at Long Benton, when it was resolved by a majority that a strike should take place, unless the owners would agree to continue the binding from the 18th of October, as usual. This not being complied with, the men accordingly struck after that day, and as the delegates from the different collieries held frequent meetings, both in the counties of Durham and of Northumberland, they were hunted out by the owners and magistrates assisted by the military, and committed to prison until the prisons could contain no more. To such an extent were the old gaol and house of correction at Durham filled, that for fear of infection, several were removed to the stables and the stable-yard of the bishop of Durham, where they were guarded by the Durham volunteers, and constables, and afterwards by the royal Caermarthenshire militia. Fresh seizures continued to be made, the number in the bishop's stables amounted to about three hundred. Finding that this mode of proceeding only made the matter worse, the rev. W. Nesfield, a magistrate, and captain Davis, of the Caermarthenshire militia, undertook to compromise the difference. They made application to the prisoners in the bishop's stables, whom they considered the leading men, but who refused to have anything to do in the matter, leaving it entirely to their partners at liberty, who settled it by removing the time of binding to the 5th of April, as at present. In the course of this strike of about seven weeks, several other things were brought forward, particularly the fines for deficient measure and foul coals. Mr. Nesfield having pledged himself that these things should be rectified after the pits had again commenced working and previous to the binding, he by advertisement called a meeting of the trade to be held at Chester-le-street on the morning of December the 20th, "and that two men from each colliery be directed to attend." This was objected to by Mr. Martindale, the clerk to the coal trade on the river Wear, "lest such

meeting should hazard a recurrence of the late disturbances," and "that the river Wear does not in itself constitute the coal trade, but that the rivers Tyne, Hartley, Blyth, and Cowpen, form also a principal part thereof," &c. This being also inserted in the papers, with Mr. Nesfield's answer to the objections contained therein, he by another advertisement dated December the 26th, and addressed "to the coal owners of the rivers Tyne and Wear, and of Hartley, Blyth, and Cowpen," called a meeting to be held at the same place on the 3rd of January, 1811, when printed "Proposals for regulating the contracts between the coal owners and their pitmen on the rivers Tyne and Wear, and of Hartley, Blyth, and Cowpen, submitted to their consideration, at a special meeting held at Chester-le-street, on Thursday, the 3rd of January, 1811, by the Rev. William Nesfield, one of his Majesty's Justices of the peace for the county of Durham," were agreed to by the coal-owners, and have been the basis of the agreements ever since.

By the words "binding time" is meant the day from which the contract is made in one year until the same day in the next year, when it expires. The time when it is made is uncertain—sometimes a month or six weeks before the old contract ceases. Previous to 1810, when there was a great scarcity of pitmen, a bounty called "binding money" was given, which at some collieries was as high as twenty guineas a man, but which is now entirely done away. The binding money in 1800 was from 10 to 12 guineas a man. In 1804, from 18 to 20 guineas. In 1809, five guineas, and by Mr. Nesfield's proposals it was to be the same as in the year preceding.—*Local Rec.*

1809.—On opening a gap in a wall near Bamborough, for the passage of carts, a toad, which had been incarcerated in the centre of a wall, was found alive and set at liberty. A mason, named George Wilson, when building this wall sixteen years before, had wantonly immured the animal in a close cavity formed of lime and stone, just sufficient to contain it, and which he plastered so closely as seemingly to prevent the admission of air. When discovered, it seemed at first, as must naturally be supposed, in a very torpid state; but it soon recovered animation and activity; and as if sensible of the blessings of freedom, made its way to a collection of stones, and disappeared.—*Mackenzie.*

At this time the branch road from Heddon-on-the-wall to Hexham was formed, and a bridge on the line of the road, was built over Whittle-dean, about twelve miles west of Newcastle. It is situate in a hollow of the road, and crosses a deep romantic dell through which a considerable stream rushes to the Tyne. A large portion of the stone used in the erection of this bridge was obtained from the

ruins of an old tower, seated on the west bank of the stream, and embowered in a thick wood immediately north of the road, the remains of which shew it to have been a stronghold of some importance.—*MS. Col.*



WHITTLE TOWER, NORTHUMBERLAND (1842).

1810 (Jan. 10).—Died, at Alnham, in Northumberland, John Rutherford, aged 100 years. He had formerly been a shepherd.—*Local Papers.*

January 16.—Died, within the rules of the King's bench prison, London, and was buried on the 23d, in the vault of St. George's church, in the borough, Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes, esq. This Irish *fortune hunter*, then Mr. Stoney, came to Newcastle, an ensign in the 4th regiment of foot, where he had the address to marry Miss Newton,* only child of William Newton, of Burnopfield, in the county of Durham, esq., with a very large fortune. In 1770, Ensign Stoney, succeeded Mr. Forrest, (promoted to a captaincy) as lieutenant in the 4th regiment of foot. After the regiment was disbanded, Mr. Stoney retired on half-pay to the seat of his wife's ancestors. His wife, after suffering much cruel treatment, died, leaving no issue. In 1777, he married the countess of Strathmore, a most accomplished young widow, whose lord had died at Lisbon, leaving her in the pos-

* November 5th, 1768, was married at St Andrew's church, in Newcastle, by the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Ellison, Andrew Robinson Stoney, esq., an ensign in the 4th regiment (Brudenell's), to Miss Newton, of Westgate Street, an heiress with a fortune of £20,000.—*Newcastle Courant and Newcastle Journal of this date.*

session of immense property. In consequence of this marriage, he assumed the name of Bowes. On the death of sir Walter Blackett, this year, he stood a contest for Newcastle, against sir John Trevelyan, bart., but was unsuccessful. In 1780, he served the office of high sheriff of Northumberland, and in the month of September the same year, was chosen a representative in parliament for Newcastle. In 1785, the countess obtained a divorce against her husband for cruelty, and in 1787, articles of peace were again exhibited against him, in consequence of which, he was finally sentenced to pay a fine of £300. to his majesty, to be confined in the king's bench prison for three years, and at the expiration thereof, to find security for fourteen years, himself in £10,000. and two securities in £5,000. each. The countess wrote a very bitter, but just epitaph, which she sent to Bowes during his confinement. Bowes was a compound of baseness and hypocrisy, and his acts (even when in prison) were of the blackest dye. The countess of Strathmore died April 28th, 1800.

—*Local Rec.*

1810 (Jan. 20).—Died, at the Forest Burn, Rothbury, Matthew Hall, aged 107 years.—*Local Papers.*

January 30.—Died, in the county poor-house, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, Mary Walker, widow, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

February.—Previous to digging the foundation for the county courts, in Newcastle, it was necessary to remove an enormous mound, surrounded by the moot-hall on the north (then removed), and by what was called the half moon battery on the south. This vast accumulation of ashes, &c. was about thirty-two feet high, above one hundred feet in length, and of great breadth. The beginning of this month, on digging the foundation, after its removal, several antiquities were discovered, which proved this to have been the site of a Roman station. When at the depth of five feet from the surface, a well of Roman masonry was discovered near the edge of the bank. It is near the centre of the present building. To raise it to the desired level, a very strong wall in the form of a trapezium, and enclosing about ten square yards, had been constructed on frame work, of beams of oak, fixed perpendicularly and horizontally in the river bank, and filled up within and without with clear blue clay. The beams of oak were remarkably fresh, and near the bottom of two of them, that were placed perpendicularly, stags' horns of great size and thickness were found. Between the fictitious and original bank was a thick layer of ferns, grasses, brambles, and twigs of birch and oak, firmly matted together. Near the north-east corner of the court-house were found two Roman altars, one bearing an illegible inscription, the other plain. There were also large quantities of Roman

pottery, two copper coins of Antoninus Pius, and a part of the shaft of a Corinthian pillar, richly fluted and of excellent workmanship. Near the altars there were found a small axe, a concave stone, bearing marks of fire, split and with thin flakes of lead in the fissures, also fragments of millstones and foundations of walls, firm and impenetrable as the hardest rock. At the bottom of the well were found two buckets with their iron chains.—*Hodgson's Northd, &c.*

1810 (Feb. 6).—Died, at Barnardcastle, Margaret Gowland, aged 105 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 22 —About two o'clock on the morning, a most tremendous fire broke out in the steam corn and paper mill, on the premises of Mr. Harrison, baker, Gateshead. A few minutes after the first discovery of the calamity, the whole of the mill was completely in flames, and the fire had communicated to the adjoining dwelling house of Mr. Harrison, where it spread itself with such rapidity, that the family had scarce time to save their lives; happily, however, they all escaped unhurt, but of the furniture and other effects of the house, not any part was preserved, nor even a single article of wearing apparel. On the first alarm, the fire bell was rung, and the fire-engines hastened to the spot, but before they could be of any use, the dwelling house of Mr. Harrison was completely destroyed; and the adjoining one occupied by Mr. Anderson, grocer, in such a state of conflagration, that it was utterly impossible to prevent it sharing the same fate. The fire was, however, prevented from spreading farther on that side, and the exertions of the firemen were happily attended with such success, that the dwelling house adjoining to Mr. Harrison on the other side, and tenanted by Mr. John Marshall, printer, was preserved from destruction, and the fire which had communicated to it extinguished. The whole was got under about nine o'clock. Mr. Anderson lost the whole of his furniture, clothes, &c., and nearly the contents of his shop. Mr. Marshall also sustained a considerable loss by the hasty removal of his stock. The premises being contiguous to the river, made the illumination awfully grand from Newcastle. There was a very liberal subscription for the sufferers.—*Ibid.*

February 27.—A grand masonic procession took place at Berwick, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a new pier for that harbour; the day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, &c. The different lodges of freemasons from the neighbouring towns joined that of Berwick, assembled on the morning, at the town-hall, along with the magistrates, commissioners, and a number of the most respectable inhabitants, thence they walked to the church in due order, where an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion by the rev. J.

Barnes, vicar of Berwick. After service, they proceeded (attended by the band, and a guard of the Forfarshire militia, then lying there), to lay the foundation stone. After the rev. William Johnstone, of Spital, chaplain to the lodge of St. George, had delivered a short prayer, the stone in which was deposited a bottle, containing one of each of the coins of George III. with several medals, and two plates with suitable inscriptions on them, was laid down amidst the acclamations of an immense concourse of people. When the ceremony, which was honoured with a royal salute from the cannon on the ramparts, repeated by the ships in the harbour, which displayed their flags on the occasion, was over, the procession returned to the town-hall, where the lodge of St. George dined; the other lodges dined at their respective rooms, and the day concluded with the greatest harmony.—*Local Papers.*

1810 (Feb.)—As the workmen were forming the common sewer for a house in Collingwood street, Newcastle, then building for the late Mr. John Arnett, tallow chandler, they discovered a fine fragment of the Roman wall, in which was found a stone hollowed out like a mortar, and containing some bones and ashes or red earth. This hollow stone was inverted upon a thin stone and formed part of the face of the wall.—*Ibid.*

The inscription here represented, and found at Caervorran, was this year, built up into the end of the house of Mr. Carrick the proprietor of the station. It was subsequently possessed by Mr. Gibson, of Redesmouth, and now forms one of the many in the colonnade of the society of Antiquaries, Newcastle. It is read thus "The first cohort of the Batavians made this." The Notitia places this cohort at Procolitia or Carrawburgh, where also it is mentioned in inscriptions.—*Hodgson.*



CHAPTER V.



IED, off Minorca, on board the *Ville de Paris*, on the 7th of March, 1810, the day after his departure for England, vice-admiral lord Collingwood, born at Newcastle in the year 1750. He was the friend and confidant of lord Nelson, and after the fall of that gallant admiral at the battle off Cape Trafalgar, admiral Collingwood completed the victory in the most gallant style, for which conduct, November 24th, 1805, the freedom of the city of London and a sword of two hundred guineas value were voted to him. November 21st the same year, the common council of Newcastle, voted him a piece of plate value one hundred and fifty guineas, and the master and brethren of the Trinity-house, presented him with the freedom of that corporation in a gold-box. The Newcastle armed associated volunteer infantry voted him a piece of plate, value one hundred and twenty-five guineas, for his meritorious conduct on the same occasion. It was made in London, and was an elegant silver enchased tureen, containing his lordship's arms, with other emblematical devices, and an appropriate inscription. May 11th, his lordship's remains were interred in St. Paul's cathedral. August 6th, 1812, a fine whole length portrait of his lordship which had been voted by the Newcastle volunteers, to be placed in the Guildhall of that town, was, after an elegant speech, presented by lieutenant colonel Clennell, at the head of the regiment, to the mayor and other members of the corporation. The regiment then fired three volleys, and the guns on the castle fired a salute. In 1821, a cenotaph by Rossi, to the memory of lord Collingwood, was placed in the nave of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle. It is a marble bust of his lordship,

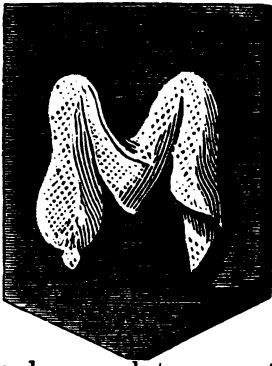
placed upon a pedestal, whereon is recorded his various achievements. An engraved portrait is prefixed to his memoirs. Lady Collingwood died September 16th, 1819.—*Local Papers*.

1810 (Mar. 15).—A self-acting plane was brought into operation for the purpose of conveying coals from Bewicke-main colliery to the Tyne. It was constructed and executed under the direction of Samuel Cooke, esq., of Ayton-house, one of the owners of the colliery. The length of the rope on this plane was sixteen hundred yards, and it was made to convey fifty chaldron waggons of coals, at the rate of ten miles in one hour.—*Ibid*.

March 16.—Died, at Lamesley, in the county of Durham, Mrs. Mary Potter, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

In the spring of this year a part of the south wall of Barnard castle fell. It battered in the roof of a house, and a man at work in a saw-pit below was providentially preserved by a tree falling across it.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur*.

April 7.—About one o'clock on the morning, several Cullercoat fishermen, launched their boats and went to sea, it being smoother than it had been for many days. They got off and examined their great lines, where they had left them some time previously. Whilst they were thus employed, a heavy storm arose. The alarming situation of the boats being seen from Hartley, the Blyth life boat was sent for, and promptly obtained, accompanied by numbers of people. The wind, about three o'clock in the afternoon, blew strong from E.S.E., and the sea very high. The life boat being manned, then pulled through the breakers, soon reached the fishing cobles, and after taking out the men and much of their gear, the majority unfortunately agreed to land near Bates's Isle, instead of making for Blyth or Shields harbours, the former of which they could have reached in an hour. In returning and nearing the margin of the tempestuous main, one high and ridgy wave broke into the boat, killed or dreadfully maimed the steersman and two or three others, stove the boat almost to pieces, yet she still floated, her gunwales even with the broken water. Another heavy wave following when she was near the land and under no command, she struck the ground, splitting nearly in two, the cork floated out, and the fragments were entirely dispersed. Only two men out of twenty-seven, escaped to land; one a Swede and the other a seaman named Thomas Lily, belonging to Hartley. During the whole of this heart-rending scene, the shore was lined with near two thousand people. Amongst the sufferers were a father and four sons, named Armstrong; several left widows and large families. A very liberal subscription was raised in the neighbouring towns for the distressed families.—*Ibid*.



1810 (April 15).—Died, at Chester-le-street, aged 79, sir Thomas Conyers, bart. He inherited of this once illustrious family, nothing but the title, which expired with him. Such is the mutability of human affairs, that this man, whose ancestors were lords of Horden, and inheritors of extensive lands, broke stones upon the turnpike! and was an inmate of the poor-house at Chester-le-street, until by the benevolent exertions of the late R. Surtees, esq., of Mainsforth, who

endeavoured to rouse the attention of the northern gentry in his favour, he was removed on the 1st of March, to a situation of ease and comfort, which however he was destined to enjoy but a short time.—*See Gent's Mag. for Dec. 1809, and Suppt.*

April 23.—This being the day appointed by Simon Temple, esq., for opening his new colliery at South Shields, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, &c., &c. Eight waggons being loaded with the coals, were, about one o'clock, drawn by one horse from the pit to the staith, preceded by the band of the East York militia, and followed by Mr. Temple, and a long procession of his friends, and two associations of shipwrights under their banners. Seven of the waggons in succession, were let down by a new inclined plane to the deck of the ship Maida, belonging to Mr. Temple, which was decorated with colours. The delivery of each was succeeded by a general discharge of cannon, and three times three cheers from the surrounding multitude. The eighth waggon was given to the families of the unfortunate men belonging to South Shields, who were then prisoners in France. The company then proceeded to Hylton castle, where one hundred and fifty gentlemen sat down to dinner. The high sheriff of Northumberland, the mayor of Newcastle, several of the chapter of Durham, and most of the magistrates of the district, were at the table. At eight o'clock the ball commenced. At one o'clock, near four hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down to supper; after which dancing recommenced and continued till near six, when all retired highly pleased with the entertainment and the respectful attention paid to them.—*Local Papers.*

Same day, died at Sunderland, Mrs. Douglas, in the 101st year of her age.—*Ibid.*

About this time, as sir Carnaby Hagerston's workmen were digging in Flodden field, they came to a pit filled with human bones, and which seemed of great extent; but alarmed at the sight, they immediately filled up the excavation and proceeded no further. A fine seal,

supposed to be Roman, was found here, which was in the possession of the late countess Cowper.—*Local Papers.*

1810 (May 1).—The lighthouses at North Shields, after being rebuilt were first lighted and the tide flag hoisted.—*Ibid.*

May 9.—The foundation stone of a wall to form a new street between Newgate street and Gallowgate, Newcastle, was laid by sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., under which he deposited silver and copper coins of his majesty George III. This street was afterwards called Heron street; and was much improved in 1824, by pulling down an old house which stood across it.—*Ibid.*

May 21.—A most tremendous storm of thunder and lightning visited Felton and the neighbourhood. The electric fluid entered the house of Mr. William Cowens, farmer, at east Thirston, it shivered to pieces a press-bed standing in the kitchen, and ran along and melted the bell-wires attached to three rooms; in the parlour a closet door was split. At this moment Mr. Cowens came in from the field, and his dog, which was close behind him, was killed on the spot. There was a loaded gun standing in the passage, which exploded soon after. When the alarm had a little subsided, it was discovered that the rooms on the second floor were on fire, and it was supposed that the lightning, which had been attracted by the curtain rods, had set fire to the window curtains and bed hangings. The flames were, however, soon extinguished. A great number of squares of glass in the windows were broken, and the roof of the house was penetrated in several places, but no person sustained any injury.—*Ibid.*

May 24.—The foundation of a new bridge was laid at Thropton, near Rothbury. On this occasion, the Coquetdale rangers, and Percy tenantry paraded. The rev. Dr. Watson laid the first stone, and delivered an appropriate prayer; as each stone was laid, the volunteers fired a volley. The ceremony being finished, the procession returned to Thropton, where a large party sat down to dinner, and spent the day in the greatest harmony.—*Ibid.*

May 29.—The society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Isaac Jopling, senior, of Gateshead, for penetrating into the remotest corners of the North Highlands, discovering variety of marbles, working the quarries, and bringing (at great labour and expense) the produce of these almost inaccessible regions into use. The wood cut on the opposite page, by Bewick, represents correctly the obverse and reverse of this beautiful medal, which weighs 1 oz. 10dwts. and 10grs. For an interesting account of the difficulties which Mr. Jopling had to encounter, whilst working the quarries in Sutherlandshire, see the "Transactions of the Society of Arts,



&c." for 1810, vol. xxviii. p. 59.—*Local Rec.*

1810 (June 1).—Died, at South Shields, Mr. Andrew Bowmaker, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

June 4.—The foundation stone of the Jubilee school, near the Keelmens' hospital, on the New-road, Newcastle, was laid by George Anderson, esq., in commemoration of the 50th year of the reign of his majesty George III., and being also the anniversary of his birth, the troops in the garrison, joined by several volunteer corps, assembled on the town-moor, and fired in honour of the day. March 4th, 1811, this school was first opened.—*Ibid.*

June 21. The foundation stone of a new charity school, near the church, North Shields, was laid with great solemnity by John Scott, esq., one of the magistrates for the county, assisted by William Linskill, Robert Laing, esqrs., and others. The rev. William Haswell, then stood upon the stone, and pronounced a benediction suitable to the occasion, after which he delivered an elegant oration. A brass plate, with an inscription, and several coins of the reign of George III. were deposited in the stone.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died at Jarrow, Mary Wolfe, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

July 15.—Died at Sunderland, Elizabeth Hall, aged 105 years. Her twin brother died about five years before, aged 100 years, and her mother lived to the age of 108 years.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—The foundation stone of the new courts for the county of Northumberland, in the Castle garth, Newcastle, was laid by the right honourable earl Percy, as representative of his grace the duke of Northumberland. The magistrates and a considerable number of gentlemen of Newcastle and the county assembled at the Guild-hall, at eleven o'clock, and from thence walked to the site of the courts. On the arrival of earl Percy and the procession at the site, the Percy tenantry and the Newcastle volunteers, who were drawn up in a square, presented arms, and a royal salute of twenty-one guns,

was fired from the castle. Thomas Clennell, esq., the chairman of the bench of magistrates of the county then made a neat speech, after which he presented the silver trowel to the noble earl, in the name of the justices, to lay the foundation of the building. A plate with a suitable inscription, and various gold, silver and copper coins of the reign of George III. having been deposited in a cavity cut in the stone, his lordship proceeded to the masonic part of the ceremony, after which, his lordship addressed the audience, and was greeted with a burst of acclamation. The clerk of the peace, then handed to the chairman a letter from his grace the duke of Northumberland, inclosing a donation of £3,000. towards the erection of the building, in aid of the county rates, which, his grace observed, would fall heavy on the less opulent freeholders. The chairman mounting the stone, and displaying the three bank notes of £1,000. each, explained the purport of the letter, and observed, this was another proof of the generosity of the noble house of Percy. The gift was received with three times three cheers, and on the proposition of the chairman, the letter and the thanks of the magistrates were immediately entered in the archives of the county. Another royal salute was fired from the castle, the Newcastle volunteers firing a volley after every seventh gun. The procession then returned to the Guildhall. In the afternoon, about ninety gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous dinner, at the Queen's head inn, in Pilgrim street, earl Percy in the chair. His lordship gave £50. to the workmen employed in building the courts. This and the following year, the assizes for the county of Northumberland were held in St. Nicholas' church.—*Mackenzie*.

1810 (July 26).—Died, at Newcastle, Mrs. Watkins; who on being informed that her son was fighting in the street, ran thither; and on seeing one of the men fall, exclaimed "O my son!" and immediately expired.—*Gent's. Mag.*

August 2.—A young whale, called a finner, was towed into Sunderland by a Scotch sloop, which picked it up off Holy Island. It measured thirty feet in length.—*Local Papers*.

August 7.—Whilst an act of parliament was passing for rebuilding St. Edmund's chapel, in Gateshead, which had long been in ruins, a new chapel was begun and built by subscription. It was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, on the above day, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead, from 1 Tim. chap. iii. ver. 15. August 7th the following year, the burial ground of this chapel was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, and a sermon was again preached on the occasion by the rev. John Collinson, from Genesis, chap. xxiii, ver.

2, 3, 4. The ruins of St. Edmund's chapel were taken down in 1811, and houses for the three elder brethren were at the same time rebuilt a little to the north of the new chapel.—*Local Papers*.



OLD CHAPEL OF ST. EDMUND, GATESHEAD (1783).

1810 (Aug. 16).—An extraordinary high tide in the river Tyne, accompanied with a boisterous north wind, and a very tempestuous sea, swept away about thirty-six yards in length of the outer wall of Clifford's fort, at the east end of North Shields. Some masses of stone were carried by the force of the water, near thirty yards from the site of the wall. It also tore up and carried away some hundred tons of earth and gravel to the eastward of the fort, and destroyed the blocks which had been erected for laying down the frame of a new ship—*Ibid*.

August 23.—Died, at Seaham, near Sunderland, after a long trying, and very afflictive illness, of a consumption, Joseph Blacket, a young man of very distinguished talents, which had for the past two years engaged the care and culture of Mr. Pratt, who gives the subsequent interesting account of him in a Note in "The Lower World," a Poem, occasioned by lord Erskine's Bill for prevention of *wanton* cruelty to animals: "The public are as yet but slightly acquainted with the merits of this extraordinary young man; the only mark of his genius, *properly* before them, being "The Times," an Ode on the commencement of the year 1809; one of the most important events of which, the glorious though unfortunate struggle of the Spanish nation for its liberty, furnishing its principal subject. It was however, not undistinguished by the professional critics; and to adopt the language of one of them, "hailed as possessing many beauties

which are not to be found in many of the effusions of a highly cultivated muse ;" and by another, "as a bud promising future excellence, when matured by time and experience ; the age of the author being, as they (rightly) understood, little more than twenty."—*Gent's Mag.*

1810 (Sep. 3).—The remains of a human skeleton were dug up on the bank side, near the southern end of Stephenson-street, North Shields. An old house had been pulled down near the spot, in order to enlarge and beautify the street, and within a few yards of its site, the bones were discovered ; a few years before, another skeleton was dug up near the same place. It was believed this was the old house wherein, in the year 1705, the duke of Argyle, then a resident at Chirton, near North Shields, received so many bruises in a night brawl or revel, as occasioned his death shortly thereafter. It was occupied by Paphian nymphs, and often resorted to by the noble duke.—*Local Rec.*

September 18.—The opening of the cut, or canal, made for altering the course of the river Tees, between Stockton and Portrack, was commenced at Stockton by public rejoicings. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells. At half-past seven, three sloops decorated with flags, &c. proceeded from Portrack through the canal, attended by the volunteer band of music, the custom-house boat, the Redcar life-boat, and a numerous assemblage of pleasure-boats, &c.; several guns were fired from the vessels as each entered into and went out of the canal, which were returned by guns placed on the quays at Stockton. When the sloops arrived at Stockton, the company's flag (most elegantly designed) was taken down from the mast head of the sloop which came up first, and conveyed through the street, preceded by the band of music, and placed on the top of the cupola on the town-hall. At twelve o'clock, the workmen were regaled with meat and drink, and at two o'clock, seventy gentlemen sat down in the town-hall to dinner, the volunteer band performing.—*Ibid.*

October 25.—This being the day which completed the half century of the reign of his late majesty George III., was celebrated at Alnwick with great splendour. The day was ushered in by the *reveille* and a morning gun, when the colours were hoisted on the castle, and before noon, lord Percy's artillery, wall-piece men, cavalry, and nine companies of the rifle corps, upwards of seven hundred and fifty men, had marched into the castle, and taken post upon the saluting battery, the towers and battlements of the castle ; the other half of his lordships corps having assembled on Tyne-side. At one o'clock, a *feu de joie* was fired by each branch of the corps respectively, mingled with the loudest cheers and music. After firing, the volunteers were refreshed with cold meat and ale ; they then returned to their quar-

ters, where they were dined at the duke's expence. His grace likewise ordered an ox to be roasted in the market-place, and ale and bread to be distributed to the populace. But the better to commemorate the day, he caused the first stone of a school to be laid, capable of containing two hundred boys, the children of the neighbouring poor, to be clothed, fed, and educated under Mr. Lancaster's plan, at his grace's sole expence. On the 12th of August, 1811, being the birth-day of his royal highness the prince regent (afterwards George IV.), this school was opened, when his grace decreed, as an express clause in the endowment of this permanent institution, that the natal day of the regent should for ever after be observed as a holiday, in order that the boys, as they grow up may learn to reverence and bless that prince to whose honour this munificent establishment has been dedicated.—*Clennell's Mag.*, &c.

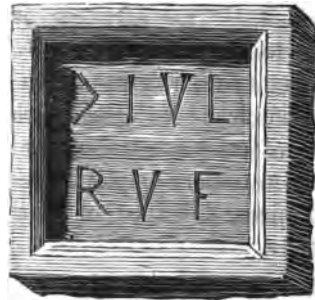
1810 (Oct. 25).—Was laid the foundation stone of a freemasons' Lodge, a substantial brick building, on the east side of old Elvet, Durham. A plate deposited in the foundation stone, was inscribed, "The first stone of the Granby Lodge of free and accepted masons, was laid on the 25th of October, in the 51st year of the reign of George III. A. D. 1810. Sir. Ra. Milbanke, bart. M. P., P. G. M.; Alexander Logan, esq., D. P. M.; Thomas Hardy, P. S. G. W.; John Bulmer, P. J. G. W.; Christopher Ebdon, G. A. Thomas Richardson, builder."—*Surtees*.

November 6.—The foundation stone of St. Cuthbert's lodge, in Tweedmouth (under the ancient constitution, the duke of Athol, grand-master), was laid by brother Selby Morton, acting master. In the stone was inclosed a bottle, containing several coins of the reign of George III., and some of William and Mary.—*Local Papers*.

November 13.—Died in the house of correction at Durham, where he had been confined upwards of seven years, under sentence of transportation for life, James Allan, a character well known in most parts of the united kingdom, particularly in Northumberland, where he was known by the name of *Jemmy, the duke's piper*, and was in early life a great proficient on the pipes. He was capitally convicted of horse-stealing, at the assizes held at Durham, in 1803, and received sentence of death, which was afterwards commuted to transportation for life; but on account of his age and infirmities, his sentence could not be carried into execution. He had nearly completed his 77th year. Had the chequered life of this notorious character been prolonged a little, he would have regained his liberty, as the first signature of the prince regent, officially addressed to the city of Durham, was a free pardon for Allan; but death had removed him beyond the

reach of royal clemency. Tibby Allan, his widow, died on the 27th of March, 1830, at Rothbury, aged 103 years.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

1810 (Nov. 24).—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, where she had resided ever since she was born, Thomasin Robinson, aged 111 years. When upwards of 100, she had her thigh broken, and perfectly recovered.—*Local Papers.*



In 1810 these two stones were found at Heddon on the Wall. The first is a mural inscription signifying that it was erected by the fourth cohort of the twentieth legion, named the powerful and victorious. The other is a centurial stone inscribed by Julius Rufus, most probably the same person who inscribed two other stones bearing the same name, and found at Denton in 1804.—*Hodgson, &c.*

At Mr. Colling's sale this year, the bull Comet was sold for one thousand guineas to four gentlemen; one of whom, Mr. Wright, of Cleasby, kept him until his death, which happened about seven years after.—*Guide to Croft.*

The Baptist meeting-house, at the west end of Walker-gate lane, Berwick, was this year built.—*Local Papers.*

This year, the north wall of Ponteland church fell; but the whole structure has since that time been repaired.—*Ibid.*

Albion-street and Albion-place, Newcastle, were this year formed.—*Ibid.*

This year, an act was obtained for making a turnpike road from Durham (through Lanchester) to Shotley-bridge. The road passes directly through the vale, instead of the old circuitous route along the heights.—*Ibid.*

Died, at Spital, near Berwick, after a life of strange vicissitudes and wonderful escapes, aged above 90, T. Gordon. It is related of him, that at one period of his life, being under sentence of death in Edinburgh gaol, one of the county magistrates, speaking warmly about the prisoner, said that "all the Gordons should be hanged." This speech was conveyed to the then duchess of Gordon, who, feeling

for the honour of the name, immediately exerted all her influence in behalf of Gordon, and succeeded in getting his sentence changed to a few years' solitary confinement.—*Mon. Mag.*

1810.—Flag-lane chapel (primitive methodist), Sunderland founded. The registers of births and baptisms 236 entries, extending from 1823 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Silver street chapel (primitive methodist), Newcastle upon Tyne, founded. The registers of births and baptisms extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1811 (Jan).—The pitmen on the river Tyne, who, for some weeks previous had been endeavouring to compel the coal owners to alter the time of the annual binding from Christmas to October, returned to their customary employment.—*Clennell's Mag.*

January 3.—Died, at Blyth, Mrs. Blakey, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 1.—On the evening of this day, the low-light on the Farn Island was first lighted.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

February.—In the beginning of this month, twenty laden keels were wrecked in the Tyne; crews saved.—*Clennell's Mag.*

February 23.—Died, at the High Felling, in the county of Durham, Mr. Isaac Jackson, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 28.—Died, in Gateshead, Mr. Richard Bentley, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

March 2.—The Carlisle Chronicle of this date says, "Lately at Newburn, Mr. Michael Graham was married to Mrs. Ann Thirlwell. The lady was the widow of the late William Thirlwell, a butcher in Newburn; but in consequence of being responsible for her late husband's debts, she resolved that the fortunate lover who should claim her fair person as his own, should marry her in her native attire. This resolution damped the ardour of many a true lover, but the courage of the ferryman overcame these squeamish scruples and she was led to the altar and became "bone of his bone" in a state of perfect nudity."

March 6.—Died, at Kenton, near Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Milburn, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

This month, a cannon ball, weighing 96 lb., and thirty inches in circumference, was dug out of the ruins of the castle of Berwick: it had penetrated the castle wall about three yards, at a place where it had been flanked with a tower, which must have been first penetrated, and of which there were sufficient remains to ascertain the fact. This was supposed to be the identical ball which destroyed one of the principal towers of the castle, and caused its immediate surrender to the royal army in 1405.—*Ibid.*

1811 (March 12).—About ten o'clock in the evening, a carriage was overturned near Jesmond house. It had set off from the residence of James Losh, esq., of that place, but had not proceeded far, when the driver mistaking the proper turn to go along the bridge, the carriage and horses were precipitated over a low fence into the entrance of Jesmond dean, the height of at least eighteen or twenty feet. There were two gentlemen in the carriage, one of whom leaped out as the vehicle was passing over the fence, the other was carried to the bottom, and miraculously escaped any injury. The driver was severely bruised, and one of the horses died a few minutes after the accident.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

April 10.—Died, at Anick, in Northumberland, James Crozier, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers.*

May 22.—Whilst one of the troops of the 4th dragoon guards was assembling for exercise in the Bigg-market on the morning of the above day, a mischievous dog flew at the nose of one of the horses, which immediately began to plunge very violently, and the dog still continuing to torment it, the poor animal rearing, fell backwards over, and either from breaking a blood vessel, or receiving some other mortal injury in the fall, it bled to death upon the spot. Its rider fortunately escaped unhurt.—*Clennell's Mag.*

May 28.—The Society of Arts presented the silver pallet medal to the late Isaac Jobling, junior, for a plaster cast, a copy of the Gladiator.—*Local Papers.*

May.—Died, at Seaton, near Hartlepool, Eleanor Smith, widow, aged 107 years. She retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

June 4.—As three hundred men belonging to the 82nd regiment, then stationed at Tynemouth, were crossing in the military passage boat from North to South Shields, to fire on Whitburn sands, the boat was struck and upset by a ship entering the river Tyne, which caused considerable alarm, and might have had dreadful consequences. None of the men were lost, but many were very seriously bruised, and one died from the effects next day. Several muskets, side arms, and hats, were lost.—*Ibid.*

June 10. As some workmen were digging at the head of the long bank, Sunderland, they found a human skeleton, about two feet below the surface.—*Ibid.*

June 12.—The workmen employed in lowering the level of the pavement, near the south door of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, discovered, within six inches of the surface, a very perfect stone coffin. It contained some bones, and a quantity of earth; there being no cover to it, the bones were immediately buried. The coffin would contain a person of about five feet six inches high. There was an aperture

for the head of the corpse, and a perforation in the bottom of the coffin, for the purpose of keeping it dry.—*Local Papers.*

1811 (June 29).—Died, at the North shore, near Newcastle, Mrs. Sarah Gibson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in a stable belonging to Mr. Jonathan Bell, of Walwick, near Chollerford, Northumberland, which totally consumed the same, together with five horses and their trappings, belonging to Mr. Thomas Wright, the Carlisle carrier.—*Ibid.*

This month, in taking down that part of the town's wall, in Newcastle, which extended from Pilgrim-street to the Weavers' tower, in New Bridge-street, three cannon balls, of twenty-two pound weight each, were found lodged deep in the wall. They had been shot during the siege of that town by the Scots, in 1644.—*Ibid.*



OUTSIDE OF THE WALL AND TOWERS AS SEEN IN 1783.

July 27.—Died, T. White, esq. of Woodlands, in the county of Durham, designer of grounds; whose taste and skill in his profession, and his beautiful residence, formed by his industrious hand from a bed of heath, will be a lasting testimony of his enterprising and persevering spirit, for the planting of which, the society of arts and sciences presented him nine gold and two silver medals; and part of a larix-tree, the produce thereof, at his particular request, was converted into his coffin.—*Gent's Mag.*

August 5.—The lord bishop of Durham consecrated a new burial-ground at Trimdon, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers.*

August 28.—Died, at Barlow, near Ryton, Durham, John Anderson, shoemaker, aged 108 years. He died in the act of soling a pair of shoes. He enjoyed good health, and never wore spectacles.—*Ibid.*

September 14.—Died, at Lesbury, in Northumberland, aged 78

years, the rev. Percival Stockdale, the ingenious vicar of Lesbury and Longhoughton. Being the only child of the rev. Thomas Stockdale, vicar of Branxton, and perpetual curate of Cornhill, he was nurtured with excessive care, and after being at the grammar schools of Alnwick and Berwick, he was entered of the university of St. Andrews. On the death of his father he became a second lieutenant in the 23rd., or royal Welsh Fusileers, in which regiment he served in the expedition against St. Philip, in Minorca. On his return, his regiment being ordered to India, he resigned his commission in November, 1757. Two years afterwards he was ordained deacon by Dr. Trevor, bishop of Durham; he then went to London, where he enjoyed the society of Garrick, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Brown, Goldsmith, and others of that bright constellation of genius. He afterwards became curate to Mr. Thorp, vicar of Berwick, but in a short time returned to London, and being without any church employment, he, in 1767, embarked for Italy, where he read and wrote very assiduously. After his return to London in 1769, he translated "Tasso's Aminta." The booksellers having conceived a very high opinion of his talents, he was appointed successor to Dr. Guthrie in the management of the "Critical Review." He also wrote a very elegant life of Waller the poet, for Davies, and translated for the same publisher the "Antiquities of Greece," from the Latin. In 1771, he compiled the "Universal Magazine," and two years afterwards appeared his most distinguished work, "The Poet." About this time Mr. S. became chaplain of the Resolution, guardship, of 74 guns, stationed at Spithead. During the three years he was attached to this ship, his mind was not inactive, having, besides some minor poems, composed six sermons to seamen, and translated into English, Sabbattiers' "Institutions, Customs, and Manners of the ancient Nations." He afterwards wrote an "Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope," against the essay by Wharton on the same subject. This performance met with the approbation of Gibbon and Burke. He next wrote several political letters, signed Agricola, in the Public Advertiser, was a short time tutor to lord Craven's son, and next became curate of Hineworth, in Hertfordshire, where he wrote fifteen sermons. In 1782, he took priest's orders, and wrote his "Treatise on Education." The year following, lord Chancellor Thurlow presented him with the living of Lesbury, to which the duke of Northumberland added that of Longhoughton, in the same county. Here Mr. S. wrote his tragedy of "Ximenes," but the climate not agreeing with his health, he accepted an invitation from his friend Mr. Matra, British consul at Tangier, to pass some time with him under its more genial sky. On his return in 1790, he wrote an elaborate "History of Gibraltar," which, in a fit of despond-

ency, he committed to the flames, but he soon resumed his studies and composed two poems, "The Banks of the Wear, and "The Invincible Island," and in 1807 he completed and published his "Lectures on the Poets." His last publication was "Memoirs of Himself," which are dedicated to the ingenious Miss Porter. There is a portrait of Mr. Stookdale prefixed to his poems.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

1811 (Octo. 3).—Thomas Elliot stood in the pillory at Sunderland according to his sentence, having been convicted of an assault on a young girl. The novelty of the scene brought together an immense concourse of people, (supposed not less than twenty thousand), who behaved in the most orderly manner, hardly a single insult being offered to the convicted delinquent.—*Local Papers.*

October 12.—The estate of Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes, esq., at Benwell, near Newcastle, was brought to the hammer at the Queen's Head inn in that town. It was sold in lots, which, together with the wood upon the estate, amounted to about £65,000. When purchased by Bowes for about £24,000, it was considered a very dear bargain. In 1771, when this estate was advertised for sale, the mansion-house, which has since been removed, was in the most perfect condition. There had been a chapel near its south end, which, it is said, was pulled down on account of its intercepting the view from the house; a vault and a few grave stones, one of which is dated so late as the year 1759, still mark the site of the burial ground.—*Ibid, &c.*

October.—A very curious machine for cleansing and deepening Sunderland harbour was set to work. A steam-engine of great power was erected upon a floating barge, which continually drove round a number of iron buckets fastened to a chain, and which filled themselves with sand and gravel at the bottom of the harbour, and successively emptied themselves at the top of the shaft into a spout ready to receive them. This machine could lift fifty-five tons of ballast in thirty-five minutes.—*Ibid.*

This month, after much stormy weather, the high sea washed away nearly the whole of the two slips for ship-building at the Low Lights, near Clifford's fort, North Shields, together with much of the adjoining land near the fort gate. October 30th and 31st it also washed away some thousands of tons of earth and rubbish; laid bare and then tore up the foundations of an old fort, which from the nature of the cement between the stones, appeared to have existed previous to Clifford's fort, built in 1672.—*Ibid.*

November.—In consequence of the scarcity of silver coin, Mr. John Robertson, silversmith of Newcastle, issued silver tokens of one shilling and of sixpence each. Mr. R. afterwards issued others of the value of half-a-crown. Mr. Kelty, silversmith of Newcastle, also

issued silver tokens. Silver and copper tokens were likewise issued from Bewicke Main colliery office in Newcastle; by Messrs. Christopher and Jennett, booksellers, Stockton, and by various other tradesmen in the counties of Durham and Northumberland.—*Local Rec.*

1811 (Nov. 17).—The new built Scots church, in Howard street, North Shields, was opened for divine service. A very excellent and appropriate discourse was delivered on the occasion by the rev. Mr. Knox, to a crowded audience.—*Local Papers.*

December 28.—An alarming fire broke out in a house in New Pandon street, Newcastle, belonging to, and occupied by Mr. Cooke, ship biscuit baker, which communicated to the house adjoining, and terminated in the destruction of both.—*Ibid.*



WEST-GATE, NEWCASTLE.

This year the Westgate, in Newcastle, was pulled down. It was one of those strong entrances through the town-wall, and had been in former times secured with massive gates of oak beams and iron doors. This gate consisted of four wards, and was said to have been built by the munificent Roger Thornton. In the year 1782, a foot way was opened on the north side of this gate. Upon the site of this gate are built a toll-house; the house carpenter's meeting-house, and the peace and unity hospital. It was long used as a magazine for military stores. This gate had formerly been a prison.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

About this year, in the neighbourhood of Rosedean, a farm house, two or three miles distant from Lilburn Allers, near Wooler, Northumberland, noted for the frequent robberies formerly perpetrated near it, a murder was committed upon the highway, unequalled in the annals of atrocity. A journeyman mason, in returning from his work, in the glare of sunshine, was attacked by an assassin, who, after per-

petrating his murderous work, coolly exchanged shoes with his victim. He then tossed him over a dyke; and having bent a bramble bush over the body, it was some time before it was discovered. Such hellish delight had been felt in the performance of this tragedy, that (on the authority of one of the gentlemen who sat on the coroner's inquest, for the statement) the body was perforated by twenty-one wounds, of which any one of nineteen must have proved instantly mortal. It is lamentable to add that, though the miscreant appears to have slept the following night in a field of corn adjoining the spot he has never been traced, and the blood of the murdered still calls to Heaven for vengeance.—*Border Tour*.



KEEP OF THE CASTLE, NEWCASTLE (1810).

1811.—Castle-street, Newcastle, was this year formed in order to obtain a better approach to the new County courts, by way of Bailey-gate. For this purpose the south part of the inner wall of the castle was taken down, and the base of the keep was exposed by clearing off a large accumulation of rubbish.—*Picture of Newcastle, &c.*

Population returns:—

County of Durham.....	177,635
———— Northumberland.....	172,161
———— Newcastle.....	33,723
Gateshead (Parish of St. Mary's)	8,782

1811.—Cornsay alms-houses, in the parish of Lanchester, Durham, for six poor men and six poor women, were built and endowed by the late William Russell, esq., of Brancepath castle.—*Surtees*.

Forth-street, and Orchard-street, Newcastle, were this year formed. The quay was also considerably widened opposite to the Exchange, Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

In this and the preceding year, the chapel of St. Hilda at South Shields, which is of very high antiquity, probably nearly coeval with Jarrow church, was almost wholly re-built, except the steeple, the south and west wall, and part of the east wall; the pillars forming the north and south aisles were removed, and a single roof thrown over the whole structure; the ground floor was new paved, and a handsome uniform gallery extended round the north, south, and west. The ceiling of the whole is handsomely stuccoed.—*Surtees*.

Newgate street chapel (Independent), Barnard castle. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1806 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1812 (Jan. 27).—Died at Pit hill, in the parish of Chester-le-street, Catherine Aisbert, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

February.—Several Roman antiquities were this month sold by a person (to all appearance a farmer) to Mr. Thomas Watson, silversmith, of Newcastle. They consisted of an oblong silver salver, about eighteen inches in length, carved round the edge; when discovered it was quite entire. A silver cup, about five inches in diameter, with only a small damage on one side; another, about the same size, was so much corroded as to fall to pieces. A long flat handle, which appeared to have belonged to one of the cups, most beautifully carved with flowers and the heads of birds, with the following inscription, inlaid with letters of gold, MATR. FAB. DVBIT.—two pieces of silver, carved and gilt, which seemed to have been the side pieces of a bridle bit. Several gold and silver rings, some set with stones, and one with an inscription. The rings were in the shape of serpents. Along with the above was discovered a number of silver coins; and a massy gold chain about eighteen inches long. The above were found in Northumberland, but the person who sold them, from interested motives, refused to give any information respecting the place.—*Ibid.*

March 15.—The new Methodist chapel in Vine street, Sunderland, was opened, on which occasion, the rev. John Slack officiated.—*Ibid.*

April 4.—The remains of the hon. lady Julia Percy, arrived in Newcastle from Alnwick. In the evening the body lay in state at the Turk's head inn, and early the next morning was again carried forward on its melancholy route to the family burial place at Stanwix in Yorkshire.—*Ibid.*

1812 (April 14).—In digging up some remains of foundations in a potatoe garden, a little to the west of the church-yard at Jarrow, a silver denarius, of Aulus Vitellius was found by the sexton of the church, embedded in mortar in the heart of the wall. The legend of it round the head is—A VITELLIVS GERMANICVS AVG., and on the reverse—CONCORDIA *Populi Romani*, with Concord seated, and holding a wreath in her right hand and a cornucopia in the left.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

April 15.—The first stone of the new work, at Hartlepool pier was laid by Carr Ibbetson, esq., amidst great rejoicings.—*Surtess.*

April 28.—Died, at Darlington, Mrs. Alice Turner, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

May 2.—The public market for the sale of wheat, maslin, rye, beans, and peas, was removed from near the foot of Pilgrim-street, to the open area on the north side of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

May 5.—An act for lighting and watching Newcastle, without the walls, received the royal assent, and on Saturday night, September 26th, the same year, that district, was first lighted with oil.—*Ibid.*

May 7.—This being ascension day, a very melancholy accident happened on the return of the aquatic party from Shields to Newcastle in the morning. As John Robson, a mason, one of the party, who were discharging the cannon on the top of the old castle, was in the act of reloading a gun, owing to some accident, the cartridge which he was ramming down unfortunately exploded, by which his right hand was blown off, and his body fell over the battlements of the castle, and was dashed to pieces.—*Ibid.*

May 14.—The lord bishop of St. David's consecrated a piece of ground, as additional to the church-yard of Whickham, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—Died, in New Pandon-street, Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Clark, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—About half-past eleven o'clock on the morning, one of the most tremendous explosions on record in the history of the collieries, took place at Felling, near Gateshead, in the mine belonging to Mr. Brandling, which was always considered one of the most safe in the district. Nearly the whole of the workmen were below, the second set having gone down before the first had come up, when a double blast of hydrogen gas took place. A slight trembling, as from an earthquake, was felt for about half a mile around the workings: and the noise of the explosion, though dull, was heard to three or four miles distance, and much resembled an unsteady fire of infantry. Immense quantities of dust and small coal accompanied these blasts, and rose high into the air, in the form of an inverted cone. The

heaviest part of the ejected matter, such as corves, pieces of wood and small coal, fell near the pits; but the dust borne away by a strong west wind, fell in a continued shower from the pit to the distance of a mile and a half. In the village of Heworth, it caused a darkness like that of early twilight, and covered the roads so thickly, that the footsteps of passengers were strongly imprinted in it. The heads of both the shaft frames were blown off, their sides set on fire, and their pullies shattered to pieces; but the pullies of the John Pit gin, being on a crane not within the influence of the blast, were fortunately preserved. The coal dust ejected from the William Pit into the drift or horizontal parts of the tube was about three inches thick, and soon burnt to a light cinder. Pieces of burning coal driven off the solid stratum of the mine were also blown up this shaft. As soon as the explosion was heard, the wives and children of the workmen ran to the working pit; wildness and terror were pictured in every countenance. The crowds from all sides soon collected to the number of several hundreds; some crying out for a husband, others for a parent or son, and all deeply affected with an admixture of horror, anxiety, and grief. In this calamity ninety-one men and boys perished. The few men who were saved, happened to be working in a different part of the mine, to which the fury of the explosion did not reach. After the mine had been made air tight for about six weeks, to extinguish the fire, it was again opened, and on the 8th of July the workings were entered, and the first dead body found. From various obstructions, the last of the bodies (some of whom were under six or seven feet of stone) was not found until the 19th of September. All these persons (except four, who were buried in single graves) were interred in Heworth chapel-yard, in a trench, side by side, two coffins deep, with a partition of brick and lime between every four coffins. In commemoration of this catastrophe, a neat plain obelisk is erected, nine feet high, fixed in a solid stone base. It has four brass plates let into the stone on the four sides, on which are inscribed the name and age of each of the ninety-one sufferers alphabetically arranged.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1812 (May 26).—The society of arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Thomas Machell, of Wolsingham, Durham, surgeon, for the invention of an annular saw, which cuts deeper than its own centre, well adapted for the division of cylindrical bones, surrounded by muscles, blood-vessels, or nerves, and with less injury to those parts than by any other instrument in use.—*Ibid.*

The same day the society of arts presented a gold medal to the rev. Dr. F. Haggitt for his improvement of fifty acres of waste land, at Pittington, near Durham.—*Ibid.*

1812.—About this period, the greater part of the old Manor-house at Mitford, Northumberland, was taken away. Though it had been built at different times, says Hodgson, none of it, I apprehend, was very ancient. It was probably first occupied by the Mitford family when they acquired an accession of property here in the time of Philip and Mary; and the tower, and other additions might be made to it, in 1637, which is the date of the tablet above the door bearing the arms of Mitford empaling Wharton.—*Hist. of Northd.*



OLD MANOR HOUSE, MITFORD.

June 8.—The public market for the sale of bread, oat-meal, vegetables, fruit, and gingerbread, was removed from the Sandhill to a plot of ground on the south side of the new Butchers' market. These stalls were without any covering until the year 1831, when they received this very necessary addition.—*Local Papers.*

June 15.—The freemen of Durham, in consequence of several encroachments, perambulated the boundaries of that city, a custom which had been neglected since the inclosure of the adjacent moors. The procession set out from the town-hall at 10 o'clock:—the grassmen on horseback, attended by the banners of the various trades, the city waits (music), drums, beadle. &c.—*Ibid.*

June 25.—The races on the town-moor, Newcastle, were attended by one of the most numerous concourses of spectators ever remembered. Just as the last heat for the gold cup was finished, the temporary stand belonging to the White Hart inn, being very much crowded, gave way in the middle and involved nearly one hundred

persons in the crash. About forty persons were seriously hurt, and about twelve dangerously, several of them having limbs broken. The medical gentlemen who were on the ground gave their ready assistance, and many of the sufferers were admitted into the grand stand, or accommodated with carriages from thence. A woman named Smith was seriously injured, she being below at the time of the accident. Mr. Redhead, *senior*, of Walker, Mr. Blackbird, of Newbottle, Mr. Fiddler, a midshipman, a pitman called "*The Duke*," and sir H. Vane Tempest's groom, had all limbs broken: Mr. Moffit, of Newcastle, Mr. Allison, of Whitburn, and several others were seriously bruised. Mrs. Wylam, the proprietor, was hurt in the shoulder. A quantity of the stock of wines, spirits, and ale, was destroyed. Mr. Redhead and Mr. Allison afterwards died of their wounds.—*Local Papers*.

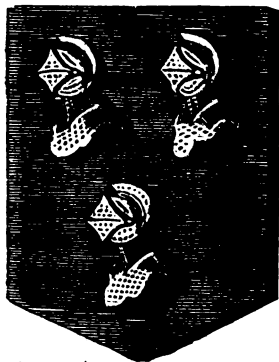
July 20.—The chapel at Gibside, Durham, completed by the right hon. earl Strathmore, was consecrated with great solemnity by the lord bishop of Durham. This elegant edifice, which was commenced building by George Bowes, esq., in the year 1760, as a chapel and mausoleum, is ornamented with a portico and dome highly embellished. It stands at one end of a most beautiful terrace in front of the mansion-house; the other extremity is terminated by a wood, out of which rises a fine column of stone surmounted by a figure of liberty, built in 1756.—*Ibid*.

August 6.—The high sheriff of Northumberland, Mr. Bates, of Milbourne hall, the judges of assize, and a large attendance of gentlemen, went in procession along Bailey-gate and Castle-street, Newcastle, to the new county courts to open the commission. They had not gone this way before for perhaps some centuries, having from time immemorial gone to the moot hall by that dark, narrow, and dangerous passage called the Black-gate.—*Ibid*.

August 10.—The foundation stone of the Exchange, Town-hall, &c., at Sunderland, was laid with masonic honours, by the provincial grand lodge for the county of Durham. Sir H. V. Tempest, bart., (in the absence of sir Ralph Milbanke, bart.) P. G. M. *pro tem*. The procession went from the Phoenix hall, preceded by the Sunderland volunteer infantry. A plate with an inscription having been deposited in the stone, the usual ceremonies were gone through, after which the volunteers presented arms. After the P. G. chaplain had delivered an oration, the volunteers fired three volleys in the air. The procession then returned to their lodge, and elected their officers for the following year. At three o'clock, the brethren, gentlemen of the committee, and others, to the number of nearly two hundred, sat down to an excellent dinner in the Phoenix-hall, sir H. V. Tempest,

bart., in the chair, who that day distinguished himself by various acts of liberality. May the 26th, 1814, this elegant structure was opened to the subscribers, on which occasion, in the absence of the president, J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P., the chair was taken by John Davison, vice-president, who addressed the meeting: this was followed by an address from the rev. J. Hampson, both of which were very ably delivered. This building cost £8,000, subscribed by individuals in £50 shares: half of the ground was purchased from sir H. V. Tempest, bart., for £600, and the lease of the other moiety was obtained for sixty-three years, under £10 rent.—*Local Papers*.

1812 (Aug. 17).—Died, in Gateshead, Isabella Sharp, at the great age of 114 years. It appeared by the baptismal register of that place, that she was christened August 17th, 1698.—*Ibid*.



August 23.—Died, sir John Eden, bart., of Windleston, M. P. for the county of Durham, in the years 1774, 1780, and 1784. Sir John was for nearly fifty years an active magistrate and chairman of the Quarter Sessions. He succeeded his father in the baronetcy in 1755; and married, first, Catherine, daughter of John Thompson, of Kirby-hall, Yorkshire; secondly, Dorothea, sole daughter of Peter Johnson, esq., recorder of York, by whom he had issue three sons and nine daughters.—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur., &c.*

August 25.—Died, in the poor-house at Berwick, Janet Skinner, a poor insane woman who lived twenty-five days without eating any victuals; she afterwards began to eat, but grew worse daily.—*Genl's Mag.*

August 31.—The Newcastle associated volunteer infantry presented their colonel, sir M. W. Ridley, bart., with a magnificent piece of plate, as a token of the high estimation in which they held his conduct as their commanding officer. At two o'clock, the regiment assembled in Pilgrim-street, from whence they marched to the moor, attended by a great concourse of people. Having passed their colonel in review, the regiment formed three deep, was wheeled forward and formed a circle, in the centre of which the vase being placed, lieut.-col. Ridley stepped forward, and addressed sir M. W. Ridley in the most appropriate language, to which the colonel made a suitable reply. The ceremony of presentation being over, the regiment greeted him with three times three cheers, in which they were joined by the company present. The regiment was then wheeled back into line, when they fired a *feu de joie*, the guns on the castle

firing a salute. They then advanced in line, and made a general salute to their colonel. Before the regiment was dismissed, the companies were presented with ten guineas each by the colonel, to regale themselves with on the occasion. The bells of St. Nicholas' church continued to ring at intervals during the day. In the latter part of which, a magnificent dinner was served up in the assembly-rooms, to the officers and a large party of visitors. Besides the officers of the regiment, there were present the mayor and principal members of the corporation of Newcastle; the general officers and staff of the northern district; the commanding officers of the cavalry, artillery, engineers, and militia then in Newcastle, and of the different volunteer corps, &c., in the neighbourhood, besides a great number of visitors, making in all a party of one hundred and thirty-two. The vase presented on this occasion was of silver, of an elegant Etruscan form, and was nearly two feet high. The sides were ornamented with military trophies and the arms of Ridley; its cover was surmounted by an elegant female figure, representing the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It was of the value of £350.—*Local Papers.*

1812 (Sep. 23).—Died, at North Shields, Daniel Todd, aged 64 years; an eccentric character, well-known by the name of *Lord Blake*.—*Ibid.*

September 26.—Died, at New York, of a dropsy, in his 57th year, George Frederick Cooke, the celebrated tragedian. Mr. Cooke was born at Berwick-upon-Tweed, and brought up as a printer; but, having been induced to play Horatio in Hamlet, the approbation he received induced him to give up his profession and apply himself to the stage.—*Gent's. Mag.*

October 6.—A coal pit at Shiney-row, in the county of Durham, took fire, by explosion of inflammable air, and one man and six boys were severely scorched.—*Gent's. Mag.*

October 10.—An explosion took place at Herrington-mill pit, when nineteen boys and four men were killed. Many others were severely burnt and wounded.—*Ibid.*

October 21.—There was a remarkably high tide at Shields. About sixty feet of the wall of Clifford's fort were again swept away, and the Northumberland life-boat house was entirely broken to pieces. Some hundreds of masts, buoys, &c. were carried away, and the water flowed into many of the houses in North Shields. It also flowed upon the new quay, and reached the doors of the warehouse.—*Local Papers.*

³ November 18.—Some workmen employed in a quarry at Byker-hill, near Newcastle, on splitting a huge block of freestone, nearly three tons weight, found a living toad in the middle of it. The cavity that

contained the animal, to which there was no passage, was the model of its figure, and was lined with a black substance, suffused with moisture.—*Local Papers.*

1812.—The new building in Claypath, in the city of Durham, was this year opened for the Blue-coat and Sunday schools.—*Surtees.*

The Anti-burgher meeting-house, near the middle of Church-street, Berwick, was this year built.—*Mackenzie.*

This year, the bridge was built over Pandon-dean, Newcastle, and Bridge-street formed.—*Local Papers.*

About this year, in forming drains at the northern extremity of the slake at Hartlepool, about five feet beneath the surface, several holes or graves, about eight feet square, were discovered, filled with human bones; trees also, the wood of which was found in excellent preservation, together with the antlers of deer, and an immense number of teeth, which, on being examined with attention, were supposed to have belonged to these animals.—*Surtees.*



PART OF THE WALL AT HARTLEPOOL.

Bondgate chapel (Wesleyan Methodist), Darlington, Durham founded. The registers of births and baptisms 157 entries, extending from 1812 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, High-street, Gateshead, Durham, founded. The registry of births and baptisms 756 entries, extending from 1812 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Carville, Wallsend, Northumberland, founded. The registers of births and baptisms 139 entries, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Old Elvet (parish of St. Oswald's), Durham, founded. The registers of births and baptisms 187 entries, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1813 (Jan. 28).—Between four and five o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered in the house of Miss Rudd, in Moseley-street, Newcastle, which had a most alarming appearance; but by the timely

arrival of the engines belonging to the Newcastle and Royal Exchange fire-offices, and the great exertions of the fire-men, it was happily extinguished soon after seven o'clock, though not before considerable damage was done to the house, and to Miss Rudd's stock of millinery. A party of the Royal Bucks militia attended with the greatest promptitude upon the occasion, and were of service in protecting the property and in keeping off the crowd.—*Local Papers*.

1813 (Feb. 6).—The Antiquarian Society of Newcastle was established, when the purport of its institution was declared to be "Inquiry into Antiquities in general, but especially into those of the North of England, and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, in particular."—*Ibid*.

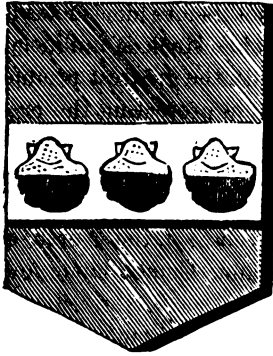
Same day, the wind corn-mill, of Mr. Watson, near South Shields, was burnt down. The fire was occasioned by violent friction.—*Ibid*.

February 18.—A sailor, named Bell, belonging to the *Close*, in Newcastle, was impressed, and safely lodged in the house of rendezvous. In the evening, his sister (a young woman under twenty) formed the resolution of attempting his escape, and for that purpose went to take "a long farewell" of her brother, who was to be sent off to the tender in the morning. She was readily admitted to an interview, and, in order to prevent the possibility of escape, brother and sister were bolted and barred in a room by themselves, for a few minutes. During this short space, the parties changed clothes, and, on the door being opened, the young man, apparently "snivelling and piping his eye," walked off unmolested in female attire, while his sister remained to fill the situation of a British tar. It would be difficult to describe the rage and disappointment of the gang, on discovering how they had been duped; and crowds of persons went to see the heroine, who received to the amount of several pounds from the spectators, as a reward for her intrepidity and affection. She was soon restored to her liberty by order of the magistrates.—*Eur. Mag.*

This month, a fire broke out at the New Mills, belonging to the corporation of Berwick, occupied by Mr. John Forster, which burnt two barley mills, and one grey stone mill, and a quantity of oatmeal, before it was got under; but by timely assistance, it was prevented from reaching the flour mills and principal buildings.—*Local Rec.*

March 31.—The labourers employed in removing the hill of earth called the Mount, near the castle, in Newcastle, found the skeletons of two men, about a foot and a half below the surface; one of them was lying with the face downward, and from the freshness of its appearance, would seem to have not been buried many years.—*Local Papers*.

1813 (Mar.)—Died at Todholes, near Elsdon, Northumberland, Mr. Wm. Snowdon, farmer, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

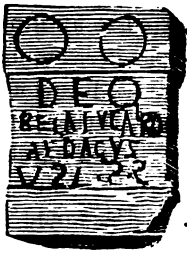


April 1.—At the quarterly court of the Infirmary of Newcastle, an excellent full length portrait of William Ingham, esq., painted in consequence of a subscription by his private friends, was presented to the institution, as a testimony of respect for his valuable services to the charity as surgeon, during thirty-three years. The painting, which is admirably executed, is by Mr. Nicholson, of Newcastle. Mr. Ingham died November 26th, 1817. There is a

very fine print of Mr. Ingham, engraved at the expense of his family, and presented to particular friends.—*Ibid*.

April 6.—Died, in High Friar-street, Newcastle, William Gantney, aged 102 years. He had been sixty years an out-pensioner of Chelsea hospital.—*Ibid*.

April 12.—Died, at Great Whittington, in Northumberland, Sarah Robson, aged 104 years. She reaped in the harvest field in her 102nd year, and retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

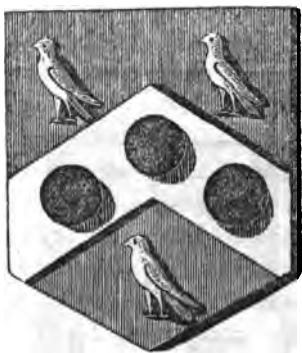


April 13.—These were presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, by Mr. G. A. Dixon, four Roman remains, three of which are represented in the margin. The first, an altar found at Brougham castle, dedicated to the god Belatucadro, by Audacus. This word Belatucader or Belatucadro, is supposed to be formed of two words signifying the invincible and omnipotent Baal. The second, a rude head of Pan, found at Caervorran; and the third, the lower part of an altar found at Old Penrith, with an inscription almost illegible. And the fourth has already been figured and described under the year 1760. It was found at Caervorran and engraved (but incorrectly) by Hutchinson in his View of Northumberland.—*Arch. Æliana*.



April 15.—An act for improving the pier and port of Hartlepool, received the royal assent. It had long been in a ruinous state. This year

also, a life-boat was established at Hartlepool.—*Local Papers*.



1813 (April 16).—Died, at his house in Portland-place, London, after an illness of two days, sir Matthew White Ridley, of Blagdon, in Northumberland, bart., in the 67th year of his age. May 3rd, he was interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle.—The concourse of sorrowing spectators on this melancholy occasion was very great. He was the representative of Newcastle in eight successive parliaments, also for many years an alderman of that corporation. He commanded the loyal Newcastle associated volunteer infantry, from its first establishment in 1798, to the period of the general dismissal of the volunteers in 1813. He was one of the oldest members of the merchants' company, and at the period of his death, had been thirty-five years its governor. In 1819, a beautiful monument to his memory by Flaxman, was placed in the nave of St. Nicholas' church. It displays in very high relief a full length figure of the deceased, as large as life, dressed in a Roman toga, and standing in a graceful and dignified attitude, with other attributes, together with a shield charged with the family arms. There is a large portrait of sir M. W. Ridley, bart., engraved by Fittler, from a painting by Hoppner. Lady Ridley, died August 3rd, 1806. On the 18th, the body arrived in Newcastle, from London, and was interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, the day following.—*Local Papers.*

April 16.—George Wilson, of Newcastle, the celebrated pedestrian, whilst confined for debt in the gaol of Newgate, in that town, undertook for the trifling sum of three pounds one shilling, to walk fifty miles in twelve successive hours, within the prison walls. A small flagged yard, measuring thirty-three feet by twenty-five and a half, was chosen as the stage of action. This he performed four minutes and forty-three seconds within the time stipulated, being an uncommon effort in so circumscribed a situation, having taken 10,300 turns to make up the distance, at four turns to each round. He walked the last six miles in one hour, twenty minutes, and forty seconds. Since that time, this man has done various feats in pedestrianism in London, Newcastle, and other places. There are various portraits of this pedestrian both in wood and copper; the former have accounts of his different pedestrian feats underneath. After his memorable struggle with the Blackheath magistrates, a life of him was published in London in 1815, 8vo. with a portrait aged fifty.—*Ibid.*



NEWGATE, NEWCASTLE (1813).

1813 (May 7).—Died, at Fowberry Tower, in Northumberland, in the 79th year of his age, George Culley, esq., the eminent agriculturist and breeder. Mr. Culley, assisted by Messrs. Bailey and Pringle, drew up the “Agricultural Survey of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland.” 8vo. 1805.—*Local Rec.*

May 12.—Died, in the poor-house at Sunderland, Mr. Thomas Hunter, aged 104 years. He had formerly been a sea captain.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—The society of Arts presented a gold medal to William Backhouse, esq., of Field House, near Darlington, for planting 300,000 larches, and 50,000 other timber trees, on waste ground; and to Jonathan Backhouse, jun. esq., of Darlington, for planting 271,000 larches, a silver medal.—*Local Papers.*

The same day, the society of Arts presented the lesser silver medal to Thomas White, esq., of Woodlands, in the county of Durham, for his application of larch bark to answer all the purposes of oak bark in tanning leather.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—A handsome school-house, built at an expense of nearly £300, was opened at Heighington, in the county of Durham. The school was originally founded in 1601, by Elizabeth Jennison, of Walworth, widow of Thomas Jennison, esq.—*Surtees.*

June 11.—Died, at Barnardcastle, Mr. Cuthbert Vasey, farmer, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

June 13.—A new methodist chapel was opened at Stockton, and two appropriate discourses were delivered by the rev. T. Lessey, to upwards of 2,000 people.—*Ibid.*

1813 (June 23).—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Allen, near Allendale smelt-mill, was laid by colonel Wentworth Beaumont, with the usual ceremonies. In the centre of the stone were deposited several coins of George III. The colonel and a party of his friends afterwards partook of a cold collation with the committee; and on retiring he gave £21. towards the erection of the bridge, and £5. to the workmen employed in building it.—*Local Papers.*

July 6.—Died, at Fulham, near London, in the 79th year of his age, Granville Sharp, esq. This venerable character was born at Durham, on the 10th of November, 1735, O. S. He retained the vigour of his mind and body till within a short period of his dissolution, and, without any symptoms than those of natural decay, terminated a life which had been actively devoted to the best interests of liberty, religion, and humanity.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 17.—An unfortunate accident happened by fire damp, at Collingwood Main colliery, on the river Tyne, by which eight men were killed, and two severely burnt. Several horses also suffered.—*Local Papers.*

July 28.—Died, in Gateshead, Mary Gold, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—Died, after a short illness, universally beloved and lamented, sir Henry Vane Tempest, bart., only son of sir Henry Vane, L. L. D. prebendary of Durham, baronet, by Frances, daughter of John Tempest, of Old Durham, esq., and sister, and at length sole heir of John Tempest, of Old Durham, esq., M. P. In the year 1794, sir Henry Vane Tempest, was elected for the city of Durham, at a time when, from his long absence in a foreign country, his precarious health, and the total want of intelligence, the knowledge of his existence was rendered extremely doubtful. This honourable testimony of respect towards his family was always acknowledged by him with pride and gratitude. In 1807 he was returned with sir Ra. Milbanke, to represent the county in Parliament. Every succeeding year increased the confidence of his constituents, and afforded him fresh opportunities of proving that he was not unworthy of their choice, by his unremitting attention to their interests. On the dissolution of parliament in 1812, he was again returned without opposition; this honourable re-election and universal regret expressed at his death, are the best and surest proofs of the purity and fidelity with which he discharged the important trusts committed to his care.—*Sharp's Hartlepool.*

August 9.—About six o'clock in the evening, a fire broke out in the paper-hanging manufactory of Messrs. Goodlad and Co., situated in a yard opposite the Cross-house, in Westgate-street, Newcastle.

This manufactory occupied part of the second story, and all the upper part of the building, and, with its contents, was entirely consumed. Considerable damage was sustained in the stable and warehouses of Mr. R. Pearson, drysalter, which were on the ground floor in the same building, and to whom the premises belonged. Mr. Hodgson, a coach-maker, whose work.shop was in the second story, also suffered considerable loss.—*Local Papers.*

August 27.—As the workmen of Messrs. Hawks and Co. were trying some new ordnance, they, by some accident, missed their intended mark, and the ball went over into Gateshead, struck the stone in front of Mr. Roddam's house, broke eleven panes of glass, and fell into the street without other mischief.—*Ibid.*

September 1.—Died, at Heddon-on-the-Wall, Mrs. Ann Rutherford, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

September 2.—An ingenious and highly interesting experiment was performed in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators, on the railway leading from the collieries of Kenton and Coxlodge, near Newcastle, by the application of a steam-engine, constructed by Messrs. Fenton, Murray, and Wood, of Leeds, under the direction of Mr. John Blenkinsop, the patentee, for the purpose of drawing the coal waggons. About one o'clock the new invention was set a-going, having attached to it sixteen chaldron waggons loaded with coals, each waggon with its contents weighing four tons or thereabouts, making altogether an aggregate weight little short of seventy tons. Upon perfectly level road, the machine so charged, it was computed would travel at the rate of three and a half miles per hour, but in the present instance its speed was short of that, owing, no doubt, to some partial ascents in the railway. Under all the circumstances, it was very highly approved of, and its complete success anticipated. After the experiment was finished, a large party of gentlemen connected with coal-mining partook of an excellent dinner provided at the Grand Stand for the occasion, when the afternoon was spent in the most agreeable and convivial manner.—*Ibid.*

September 21.—Died, at South Shields, Mr. William Bell, miller, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

September 28.—The Hall Pit at Fatfield colliery, in the parish of Chester-le-street, fired from the foul air, and thirty-two men and boys were killed.—*Ibid.*

October 6.—The rev. John Hodgson presented to the Antiquarian society of Newcastle, a Styca of the Northumbrian sovereign, Ecgfrith, who acceded in 670, and was killed by the Picts in 685. The coin in question was one of several found in the chapel yard of Heworth, in the county of Durham, enclosed in a small vessel of red earthen-

ware, slightly ornamented. The Styca is a small copper coin of extreme curiosity, as it precedes any other known issue of the Northumbrian mint nearly 150 years. Of those found as above, about a dozen of the most perfect were preserved. The vessel in which they had been deposited was also presented to the above society.—*Surtees*.

1813 (Oct. 10).—The Wesleyan Methodist chapel, on the New-road, Newcastle, was opened for divine service, and collections were made towards the building, amounting to nearly £90. Part of this building was afterwards used as a granary, but the whole building is now again used as a place of worship. The registers of births and baptisms commence in 1797.—*Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

October 18.—Died, in Newcastle, aged 55 years, Mr. Isaac Garner, printer. He was the author of many poetical pieces of considerable merit, which appeared in different journals, among which are "The Hind, or a voyage to the West Indies," "The Splendid Guinea," "Sonnet to the Rainbow," &c. These pieces particularly attracted public notice.—*Local Rec.*

November 3.—The members of the Antiquarian society of Newcastle, held their first meeting in an apartment in the castle of that town, called the kings chamber, which had been fitted up for their use by the corporation. The first part of the Society's transactions was published in Newcastle in 1816, under the title of *Archæologia Æliana*.



THE KING'S CHAMBER.
1810.

CHAPTER VI.



IN the month of November, 1813, after a heavy rain, the hilt of a Scottish dagger was found at Eachwick in Northumberland. General Lesly had his camp on Throckley-fell, his own quarters on Heddon-law, where, with glasses, he saw all passing within the English camp, opposite Newburn, on the south side of the Tyne. His soldiers drank a well dry, never done before, and took all the cattle at Eachwick, but gave receipts for them. It was near the above spring this hilt was found. It is of buckhorn, ornamented with figures of the rose, crown, thistle, &c., from which, as well as from the place of its discovery, it is conjectured to have belonged to a Scottish dagger or dirk, not older than the days of James I.—*Spearman's MSS., J. Bell's Col.*

November 11.—Died at Collingwood Main, near North Shields, Mrs. Richardson, aged 104 years. She retained all her faculties to within a few weeks of her death.—*Local Papers.*

About three o'clock on the morning of the same day, a fire broke out in a wooden tenement, in a garden, in Pandon Dean, near Vine-lane, Newcastle, occupied by a person named Brown, a house carpenter, as a workshop and dwelling room. All the clothes, tools, furniture, and stock in trade of the sufferer were consumed.—*Ibid.*

November 15, and the following day, the Northumberland militia passed through Newcastle, on its route to Scotland. The van division of the regiment, which was headed by lieutenant-colonel Coulson, was, on its entrance into the town, greeted with a salute of guns from the castle, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rang a peal, and every demonstration of joy was displayed, in compliment to the "*Lads of*

the Tynes." The crowds of people assembled to meet them were immense. Dean-street was completely blocked as they marched up. The regiment had not been in Newcastle for upwards of ten years. June 24th, 1814, this regiment was disembodied at Alnwick; they had been in actual service upwards of eleven years.—*Local Papers.*

1813 (November 20).—An alarming fire broke out in a building adjoining to Clavering-place chapel, in Newcastle, which was entirely consumed, with its contents, including a valuable library belonging to the society. By great exertions, the chapel and the neighbouring houses were saved from conflagration. An extensive library in Mr. Cuthbert's house adjoining was greatly injured, and at one time the fire had caught the roof of the chapel.—*Ibid.*

November 29.—Edward Moises, aged 16 years, only son of the rev. Edward Moises, M. A., and Christopher Hesleton, aged 17 years, were unfortunately drowned in the new water pond on the town-moor, Newcastle, from the ice giving way, whilst skating upon it. There is a neat mural monument to the memory of the former put up in the vestibule of All Saints' church, within which is introduced his watch, standing at the time when it was stopped by the water.—*Ibid.*

November 29.—Sunderland was illuminated three nights, to commemorate, the glorious news of Holland and Hanover being free. On the above night, the town shone with great brilliance, when were displayed numerous devices and transparencies of "ORANGE BOVEN," "WELLINGTON," &c. &c. The only drawback to the general joy was the demolition of numerous windows which were not lit up.—*Ibid.*

November.—A pitman removing a stone from the bottom of the engine pit, at Cowpen colliery, at the depth of 104 fathoms, received a blow on the face from some animal, which was lurking underneath. The terrified pitman, after some time recovered himself, and calling others to his assistance, they attacked the enemy, which proved to be a fine silver eel twenty-two inches long.—*Ibid.*

December.—At Jarrow colliery, a large stone fell on two pitmen, and crushed them to death.—*Gent's Mag.*

December 15.—In celebration of lord Algernon Percy having attained his twenty-first year, the bells of the different churches in Newcastle were rung through the day. The morning was ushered in at North Shields by a discharge of twenty-one guns in the Market-place. At noon, the Percy volunteer cavalry, commanded by captain Coward, paraded in the Market-place, and fired a *feu de joie*, which was returned by a round of twenty-one guns. At sun-set another discharge of twenty-one guns took place, after which there was a grand dinner at Mrs. Carr's, the Northumberland arms inn; William Linskill, esq., in the chair. His lordship was at this time serving his

country in the royal navy, stationed in the Mediterranean sea.—*Local Papers.*

1813 (Dec. 22).—There was a grand dinner at the assembly-rooms in Newcastle, in commemoration of the deliverance of Holland from French oppression, and of the series of brilliant successes which had attended the arms of England and those of her allies. About six o'clock the company, consisting of two hundreds, sat down to dinner, the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle in the chair. The outside of the building was literally covered with variegated lamps, with the words "ORANGE BOVEN" in gilt letters. A transparency of the "*Dutch Night-mare*" representing Buonaparte asleep in his tent, with a huge Dutchman seated upon his breast, smoking his pipe, excited considerable curiosity.—*Ibid.*

December 24.—About half-past one o'clock on the morning, an explosion took place in Felling colliery, by which nine men and thirteen boys were hurried into eternity, several others severely burnt, and all the under-ground horses but one destroyed. The accident occurred at the time of calling course, or when one set of men were relieving another. Several of the morning shift men were standing round the mouth of the pit, waiting to go down, when the blast occurred, and the part who had just descended met it soon after they had reached the bottom of the shaft; these were most miserably burnt and mangled. Among the unfortunate sufferers were the two overmen of the colliery, Mr. William Haswell and Mr. Thomas Morrows, and two of the deputies, Mr. Robert Stoves and Mr. Martin Greener. The deceased men left eight widows and eighteen fatherless children.—*Gent's Mag.*

December 28.—In a pit belonging to Mr Burdon, of Hartford, a man named Nicholson, upon whom a large stone fell while ascending the pit, had his head cleft in two, and died instantly; while another, in the same loop, had his thigh dreadfully lacerated, but kept his hold both of the rope and of the dead man till they reached the top. Two men at the bottom of the pit were also injured.—*Ibid.*

The church of Elwick, in the county of Durham, dedicated to St. Peter, was this year considerably repaired, and the leaden roof exchanged for slate. It is a picturesque, grey structure, with a low massy tower and buttresses.—*Surtees.*

This year, died, at Barnardcastle, Hugh Maclaine, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

Bethel chapel (Independent) Darlington. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1814 (Jan. 15).—The frost was so intense, that the river Tyne, at Newcastle, was completely frozen over. The temptation to indulge in

skaiting was not to be resisted; and on the above day (Saturday) a Dutch seaman put the strength of the ice to the test, by passing over it with beef bones tied to the soles of his shoes, and a long pole of wood in his hand, that in case the ice had broken under him, he might have supported himself with the pole until assistance had been afforded him. Numbers soon afterwards ventured upon it, and the next day, notwithstanding it snowed very hard almost the whole time, the skaiters were numerous, and continued their diversion till the evening. On the Monday and Tuesday, the ice having been swept by the keelmen, who, by this means, endeavoured to raise a little money to maintain themselves whilst laid off work by the frost, the number of people who ventured upon the ice was very great, and even ladies graced the scene with their presence. The skaiters were very numerous, and amongst those who delighted the spectators by their grace and expertness in this most elegant exercise, were particularly noticed Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P. for Newcastle, and Messrs. Gibson, Horne, Bigge, Smith, &c. The ice, after these two days, was covered with such a quantity of snow as to render skaiting impracticable. The snow being reduced by a quantity of rain which fell, became afterwards so frozen as to present once more an uncommonly thick surface of ice. Of this opportunity numbers availed themselves; the river, for several days, continued to be covered with crowds of people, amusing themselves in different ways upon its surface. Several booths were erected upon the ice, for the sale of spirituous liquors, and some fires kindled. The immense thickness of the ice removing all fear of danger, numerous parties, of all ages, ranks, and both sexes, were to be seen in every direction, perambulating its glassy surface, and enjoying the novelty of the scene. Several races took place, both with and without skates, for prizes consisting principally of different pieces of wearing apparel, as hats, stockings, &c., but in one instance, of the substantial comfort of a *leg of mutton*! These afforded great amusement. On other parts of the ice, parties might be seen playing at foot-ball, quoits, &c., and in other directions, fruit and cake sellers, fiddlers, pipers, razor-grinders, recruiting parties, &c., were to be met with. In short, the whole scene more resembled a country wake or fair, or the vicinity of a race-ground, than anything else to which it could be compared. From the brilliancy of the moon, which was then at full, the sports were continued each night to a late hour. Another partial thaw took place, but a very sharp frost succeeding, the same scenes and amusements were renewed. On one day, a horse and a sledge were upon the ice, and on another, a horse and a gig. Both getting on and off the ice was attended with some difficulty, the edges being so broken by the rising and falling of the

tide. Gangways were laid down at different places, to remedy this inconvenience, and a toll being exacted from every person who passed over, became a source of revenue for those persons who were deprived of employment by the frost. Each gangway was attended by four men, who were changed every day. The average thickness of the ice was about ten inches; in some places there was a double ice. The sheet which admitted of skating extended from Redheugh to the Glass-house bridge, though the navigation of the river was completely closed, as far down as St. Peter's quay. On Saturday the 5th of February a permanent thaw commenced in the neighbourhood, and in the night of Sunday, the ice broke up in the Tyne about Newcastle bridge, happily without causing much damage. On Monday and Wednesday the masses floating down the river, nearly choaked the harbour at Shields; but, few ships being in the port, trifling damage was sustained.—*Local Papers*.



NEWCASTLE FROM THE TYNE, ABOVE BRIDGE (1814).

At Berwick, fifty gentlemen dined in a tent fixed on the ice on the river Tweed. One of the company was present at a similar fete held on the Tweed in 1740.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1814 (Feb. 8).—Died, at Tweedmouth, aged 94 years, James Robinson, an eccentric character, commonly called *Jemmy Dumps*. He was a drum-major at the battle of Preston, in 1746, and was highly offended when told that he ran away on that day. He gained his livelihood by leading coals and sand, and attending to farmers' carts, on the High-street at Berwick. He slept in the same apartment with his

asses, and had not lain on a bed for twenty-two years.—*Local Rec.*

1814 (February).—This month, two swords were found at Ewart Park, near Wooler; they seemed to be a compound of brass and copper, the handles quite wasted by time. They were twenty-one inches long from the handle to the point, and were found in a perpendicular position, as if stuck down on purpose. One of them was presented to the Antiquarian society of Newcastle, by Mrs. St. Paul, of Ewart Park.—*Local Papers.*

February 20.—Died, at Polam Farm, near Darlington, John Yarow, aged 110 years. He was a native of Mason Dinnington, in Northumberland; was a servant to a farmer near North Shields, in 1715; and remembered assisting at the plough when the constables went into the field, and demanded the horses to convey military stores during the rebellion. He was able, the preceding summer, to cut turf in a field, as well as to attend to many domestic and rural occupations; his diet chiefly consisted of bread, milk, and cheese.—*Ibid.*

February 23.—Died, at Capheaton Clock-mill, Mrs. Margaret Tours, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

February 28.—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, Mrs. Mary Taylor, aged 103 years. She possessed all her faculties to the last moment, and walked about on the morning of her death.—*Ibid.*

March 6.—As the sexton was digging a grave on the north side of Chatton church, he found a stone coffin about ten inches below the surface. It was secured and neatly covered with three stones. In the coffin were the remains of a human body. The skull was nearly perfect, and the teeth of the upper jaw were a full set; the thigh bone measured eighteen inches; but the skull was nearly full of water. The earth being carefully examined, one of Robert Bruce's silver pennies was found, also a steel spur, and several relics of ornamental brass and iron work, supposed to be the remains of the helmet of the warrior who had been interred in the coffin. The rev. Joseph Cook, of Newton hall, vicar of Chatton, offers the following remarks on the discovery of this ancient stone coffin. "In 1318, Robert Bruce and his adherents had been excommunicated by the Pope for contumacy to his highness's messengers, and having assaulted and taken the fortress of Berwick, as well as those of the castles of Wark, Harbottle, and Mitford, and laid waste all the intervening country, it is probable that this warrior, now alluded to, fell at this juncture; and that the vicar of Chatton, on the strength of the above-named anathema, refused sepulture to his remains in any other part of the consecrated ground, than that of the north side of the church, the place in those times allotted, I believe, for the unhallowed interment of excommunicated unfortunates.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1814 (March 12).—As some labourers were at work on the summit of a green hill, in the farm of Old Earle, near Wooler, they struck into a complete urn of baked clay, unglazed, inverted on a flat stone, a little inclined. Some fragments of a human skull, and other bones, in a sound dry state, and a thin piece of flint, were found under the urn. The small end of the urn was not a foot below the surface, with a few stones remaining over it.—*Local Papers*.

April 5.—An explosion took place in Howdon pit, Percy Main colliery, when four human beings lost their lives.—*Ibid*.

April 7.—Died, at Barnardcastle, aged 82 years. William Hutchinson, esq., F. S. A., clerk of the lieutenancy of the county of Durham, whose death was preceded only two or three days by that of his wife, aged 78 years; they were both interred in the same grave. Mr. Hutchinson had distinguished himself by the publication of three county histories, 1. "A View of Northumberland, with an Excursion to the Abbey of Mailross, in Scotland," 1776, 1778, 2 vols. 4to. 2. "The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham," 1785, 1787, 1794, 3 vols. 4to. 3. "The History of the County of Cumberland, and some places adjacent, &c. &c," 1794, 2 vols. 4to. He also published "An Excursion to the Lakes in Cumberland and Westmorland," 1776, 8vo." "The Spirit of Masonry," 12mo., and various dramatic and miscellaneous works. There is a small portrait of Mr. Hutchinson on the title page of the Spirit of Masonry, also on the same plate with that of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, F. S. A., which forms the frontispiece of the 8th volume of Nichols Literary Anecdotes.—*Genl's. Mag*.

April 9.—Died, at Sunderland, Mary Pearson, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

April 13.—The city of Durham was illuminated on account of the news of the surrender of Paris to the Allies. On the morning, a great number of red, white, and orange flags were hoisted out of the windows in the different streets, which had a very good effect. The signal for lighting was given by the bells of the cathedral, and the other churches beginning a merry peal at eight o'clock, and in a short time after, the whole city and suburbs were apparently in a blaze. The fountain in the college was tastefully decorated with coloured lamps, &c., as was also the town-hall. The many transparencies and devices which were exhibited at the principal houses, shewed an uncommon degree of taste. An effigy of Buonaparte, mounted on an old horse, was carried through the streets, and at length brought to the market-place and committed to the flames.—*Ibid*.

May 1.—Petitions to parliament, from Newcastle, against any alteration in the corn laws, were transmitted to the members of par-

liament for that town. They were signed by 11,500 persons, and filled ninety skins of parchment.—*Local Papers*.

1814 (May 3).—The foundation stone of the Independent chapel in Chester-le-street, was laid. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

May 9.—Samuel Walker Parker, esq., entertained a large party to supper, &c., at his house at Low Elswick, near Newcastle. The Shot Tower was illuminated both inside and out with coloured lamps; round the galleries, &c., on the outside, and placed at intervals quite up the winding staircase in the inside; the *tout ensemble* had a fine effect. A considerable quantity of excellent fire-works was discharged from the field behind the works, and considerably heightened the pleasure of the scene. The Shot Tower was also illuminated.—*Ibid.*

May 10.—Having been fixed for the illumination of Newcastle, on account of the peace of Europe, it was a day of general joy, and the town was crowded with strangers. Precisely at twelve o'clock the right worshipful Thomas Smith, esq., mayor, the recorder, aldermen, sheriff, town-clerk, and the other officers of the body corporate, attended by the stewards, and a numerous company of the free burgesses, went in procession from the Guildhall to the Westgate, to lay the foundation stone of a new hospital for indigent freemen and their widows. Upon the procession coming in view of the castle, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, which was returned with loud cheering in the open area fronting St. Nicholas' church. The procession then moved forward to the site of the building, and the arrangements having been previously made, the town clerk read the inscription engraved upon a plate of brass, which being deposited, the mayor laid the foundation stone in due form, and then standing upon it, congratulated the immense assemblage of spectators on the combination of charity and public happiness in the business of the day. Mr. Joseph Clark then followed, and after a neat speech, proposed that the building should be called "The Peace and Unity Hospital." This was agreed to, and loudly cheered. The procession then returned in form to the Guildhall, where it separated. At half-past eight o'clock in the evening, the signal for illuminating was given by a gun from the the castle, and the town was presently in a blaze of light. Never before was such an illumination seen in Newcastle. The weather also was favourable, dark, dry, and calm; and though the streets were crowded to excess, through the precautions taken by the mayor, all disorder was avoided; not a gun was fired nor a squib let off. Many persons wore white cockades; the number of variegated lamps was very great, and probably the devices, serious and hum-

ourous, exceeded four hundred. At twelve o'clock a gun from the castle, announced the time for extinguishing the lights. Not less than between forty and fifty thousand people were in the streets, many of them from a great distance, and coaches and boats, with passengers, were seen leaving Newcastle at eleven and twelve o'clock at night.—*Local Papers*.

1814 (May 12).—North Shields was most brilliantly illuminated in honour of the peace.—*Ibid*.

Illuminations and other rejoicings took place at South Shields, at Berwick, Belford, Darlington, Stockton, Sunderland, and the other towns in Northumberland and Durham; each town vying with the other in testifying their loyalty by various elegant transparencies and mottoes.—*Ibid*.

May 14.—Saturday Mr. Edward Wiggan, farmer, near Bedlington, was arrested in Newcastle, for a debt of twenty-one pounds, and safely lodged in gaol. At the time of his arrest, he gave assurance that he would not long be in confinement, and on Tuesday, the 17th attempted his meditated escape in a manner which scarce affords an example of similar foolhardiness. Whilst walking with the other debtors on the top of the prison, he mounted the parapet next to Gallowgate, where the wall was fifty feet high, and leapt off in the hope of reaching a dunghill which lay at about five yards from the wall of the prison. He succeeded in reaching the outer edge of the dunghill, in which he sunk up to his knees, and it was perhaps owing to this circumstance that none of his bones were broken by the fall, but he was so dreadfully shaken, that on taking him up, no hopes were entertained of his recovery. He finally surmounted the injury.—*Ibid*.

May 19.—The Tyne Steam Packet, the first built upon that river for the conveyance of passengers, &c., between Newcastle and Shields, commenced its course. Being Ascension day, it joined the procession of barges, &c., and was a great novelty. It was afterwards named "The Perseverance." There are now (1843) one hundred and nineteen steam packets plying upon the Tyne.—*Local Rec. &c*.

May 31.—The society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Edward Backhouse, of Darlington, for planting 363,600 larches on waste land.—*Local Papers*,

Same day, the society of Arts presented a silver medal and ten guineas to Mr. William Martin, of Wallsend, Northumberland, for his invention of a spring weighing machine. This very ingenious and self-taught mechanic was born at the Tow House, near Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, and is brother of Mr. John Martin, the celebrated painter and engraver, and also of Jonathan Martin, who



is of considerable notoriety for having set fire to York cathedral. Mr. William Martin claims the original invention of the safety lamp; he has also made various models of bridges, railways, &c. &c., which prove him to be possessed of great mechanical ingenuity. In the year 1821, he published "A New System of Natural Philosophy, on the Principle of Perpetual Motion," with a portrait, 8vo. This very curious work, in which he *refutes* sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy, is replete with visions, dreams, robberies, &c. &c. This variously talented man has engraved several copper and steel plates; he is also a Poet! and has published "A New Philosophical Song or Poem Book, called the Northumberland Bard, or the Downfall of all false Philosophy," 1827, 8vo. He has repeatedly lectured in Newcastle and the neighbouring towns and villages, on his own system of Natural Philosophy. In June 1830, he undertook a lecturing tour through England, and returned in the summer of the following year, and, he says, with success, nobody daring to defend the Newtonian system. Mr. Martin is a writer upon almost every subject, and has drawn forth attacks from

numerous anonymous scribblers; these he treats with great contempt, always boldly signing himself "William Martin, Nat. Phil. and Poet." The above portrait is engraved from Mr. Parker's painting of the philosopher.—*Local Rec.*, &c.

1814 (May.)—Died at Ovingham, in Northumberland, Mrs. Johnson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

May.—A society, of which sir Ralph Milbanke was president, was instituted, under the patronage of the duke of Northumberland, and many of the nobility and gentry of the north, having for its object the prevention of those sudden and disastrous explosions in coal mines, of which the melancholy effects have been so frequently experienced. Part of their plan was to publish a report, containing a comprehensive view of the modes of ventilation then practised in the north of England, and also, if their funds would enable them, to offer premiums for the best treatises, or any further important discovery or improvement, which might effectually promote the object they had in view.—*Gent's Mag.*

June 2.—The skeleton of a man was found at the depth of thirty fathoms, in an old pit at Chirton, near North Shields. The discovery excited much curiosity. The duke of Argyle, who resided at Chirton, in the reign of William III., built a small house of undressed stone, in a shrubbery, which was afterwards converted into a brothel. About the year 1784, a young seafaring man disappeared, and was never more heard of. One of the inmates of this house, vulgarly called *Cushet Hall*, remembered a young man being rudely taken away from her by three men on the Newcastle road, and he was supposed to have been thrown down the pit near the house. The pit was then being filled up by order of the owners; the rubbish had filled it to within about thirty or forty fathoms of the top, and the workmen proceeded and entirely closed it. The owners of Collingwood Main having occasion for a shaft there, caused the rubbish to be cleared out, in doing which the skeleton was discovered. Several of the ribs were broken. The soles of the shoes were very perfect.—*Local Rec.*

June 11.—Died, John Erasmus Blackett, esq. senior alderman of the corporation of Newcastle, and father of lady Collingwood.—*J. Bell's Col.*

June 20.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Corby, aged 105 years, who, till within a year of her death, earned her subsistence by selling vegetables. She retained her mental faculties till her death.—*Local Papers*.

June 25.—At noon the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle, attended by the other officers of the corporation, and preceded by the

mace, sword of state, &c., and trumpeters, walked in procession from the Guildhall to proclaim the peace, which was done by the town-marshal, upon the Sandhill, and afterwards in the Wheat-market, in Newgate-street, and in the Castle-garth. The procession was loudly cheered by the populace, and saluted by a discharge of guns from the castle, and peals of bells from St. Nicholas' church.—*Local Papers*.



BLACK-GATE OF THE CASTLE, CASTLE-GARTH (1820).

1814 (June).—Died, at North Shields, Mr. William Robson, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 20.—South Shields was visited by a tremendous thunder storm, which occasioned considerable damage. The electric fluid entered the house of Mr. Oliver, in Albion-street, and passed along the bell wires into two or three rooms, in one of which a bedstead, bedding, &c. were literally burnt to ashes, but, fortunately, the fire was extinguished without doing further harm. The dwelling-house of Mr. Hodge, adjoining Mr. Oliver's, was also much injured, several of the chimnies were thrown down, and the roof considerably damaged. Happily no part of either family received the slightest injury. A

person in Mrs. Errington's, the Black bull public house, high end of the town, was struck during the storm, but not materially hurt; at the same time, the clock in the room where he sate, was very much shattered.—*Local Papers.*

1814 (July).—When Chesterhope common was divided, and the new fences were making to it, Mr. Shipley, who now farms Foulwals, and the colliery there, found several gold beads in a cairn on the east side of Watling-street, and on the allotment of common which was sold by Mr. Reed of Chipchase to Mr. Shanks of Whitstone-house. Only a small portion of the cairn, about a square yard of the centre of it, was left when Mr. Shipley began to remove its remains, and the beads were found scattered, loosely about among the stones of it; and two bronze hoop-bracelets, each about the thickness of a goose's quill, and one of them much corroded, were found with them. Fourteen of the beads were sent to Alnwick castle; a few of them dispersed among persons in the neighbourhood; and a few more have been found amongst the moulds on the site of the cairn, after heavy rains. They are of thin gold, and of the form represented in the margin.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

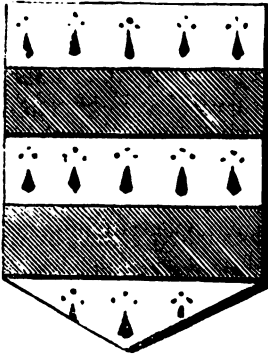


July 28.—Between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, whilst the atmosphere was obscured by a dense fog, the town and vicinity of North Shields was visited by a violent storm of thunder and lightning. In its commencement the thunder rolled with awful grandeur until it nearly attained its climax, when the hearing became suddenly stunned by a tremendous crash. The lightning struck the house of Mrs. Wilkinson, the Bull-ring inn, broke several tiles, descended from the upper story to the next, forced out a number of bricks, damaged the window boards, entered the apartment beneath, and broke a bullion square of glass in the shop window of an anchor-smith adjoining. The grandson of Mrs. Wilkinson was slightly struck by the electric fluid and much terrified; fears being entertained on account of the servant who had been employed in the upper story, some persons proceeded to the spot, when they were much shocked on finding the poor girl sadly scorched on her side and neck, her voice was enfeebled; her clothes were considerably burnt, and her pockets torn off. She eventually recovered. The lightning also struck and materially injured the warehouse of Messrs. Coward and Johnson, from whence directing its course to the house of Mrs. Wealands adjoining, it entered

a clock which stood at the head of the stair-case, which it shivered to fragments, leaving the metal work uninjured; proceeding from the clock, the lightning burst the door frame near which Mrs. W. was standing, threw the opposite door off the hinges, and in its descent broke the four wooden supporters of a bird-cage without injuring the bird, or appearing to have even touched the wires. The glass of the window through which it made its final exit, was shivered to pieces. Two boats were sunk on the south side of the river. During the most considerable part of the night there was lightning and thunder, and the rain descended in torrents.—*Local Papers*.

1814 (Aug. 10).—A grand masonic procession took place in Newcastle, on account of the union of the Athol with St. Nicholas' lodge. Therewere about six hundred in the procession, amongst whom were sir J. E. Swinburne, bart., P. G. M., sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., William Loraine, esq., Isaac Cookson, esq., the rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead, the rev. Mr. Wasney, &c. In consequence of the vicar of Newcastle having refused the use of St. Nicholas' church, the procession marched to Gateshead church, where they heard divine service, after which £112. 16s 10d. was collected for the benefit of the Newcastle infirmary. Two hundred and fourteen of the brethren afterwards dined at the Turk's head inn.—*Ibid*.

August 12.—A melancholy accident happened at Hebburn colliery, near Newcastle. Elias Mould, under-viewer, had descended one of the pits, with the deputies and overmen, to change the course of the air for ventilation, when the pit fired, and himself and ten others were unfortunately burnt to death.—*Ibid*.



August 14.—Died, in Parliament-place, Westminster, Edward Hussey Delaval, esq., of Doddington, in Northumberland, aged 85 years. Mr. Delaval was a man of very distinguished genius and merit. He was M. A. and fellow of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, and an excellent classical scholar. Chemistry and experimental philosophy were his favourite pursuits. In 1750, he was elected a member of the Royal society, and in 1765 was complimented with

their gold medal, for a paper which he read to that illustrious body. The literary and philosophical society of Manchester also voted him their gold medal for his philosophical researches; and the royal societies of Upsal and Gottingen, and the institute of Bologna, unsolicited, enrolled him amongst their members. Mr. Delaval corresponded,

and was in habits of intimacy, with most of the scientific characters of his day.—*Mon. Mag.*

1814.—In the summer of this year, some workmen discovered, on the northern side of the southern peak of the Tunstall-hills, near Sunderland, about six feet from the base, a rude sepulchre, formed of common limestones, and covered with the same materials. On the floor were deposited the fragments of three urns of very rude and inelegant form, ornamented with a zigzag; and all of them containing a rich dark mould, in which were interspersed small fragments of bone, and some human teeth.—*Surtees.*

August 25.—There were upwards of 10,000 salmon in Berwick market, which had been caught in the river Tweed.—*Local Papers.*

September 8.—Died, in London, Mr. Thomas Spence, a native of Newcastle, author of several curious political works. Mr. S. devised and published a plan by which all human kind could be provided with sustenance without pauperism. In 1801, he underwent a state prosecution, was convicted, and endured a year's incarceration, and was also subjected to a fine, of which he ever after boasted, and used to say it would be the means of one day ushering his doctrines into universal notice. His remains were attended by a numerous throng of political admirers. Appropriate medallions were distributed, and a pair of scales preceded his body, indicative of the justice of his views. One of his friends made an oration over his grave illustrative of his public and private qualities. Upon Mr. Spence's principles a sect was founded, called "The Spenceans."—*Local Rec.*

September 9.—An explosion took place in the Leafield colliery, in the parish of Chester-le-street, which killed four men, and much injured five others.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—The first number of the Durham county Advertiser was published in Durham, by the firm of Francis Humble and Co. This was originally "The Newcastle Advertiser," and, after having had various owners, it was removed to Durham. It is at present published by Mr. Francis Humble.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—A grand musical festival commenced at Newcastle, which continued for three days. The performances consisted of three grand oratorios in St. Nicholas' church, and three miscellaneous concerts in the theatre. On the last day there were between two and three thousand persons at the church, and the theatre was crowded to excess. The receipts exceeded £2,300; one-fifth was given to the infirmary. Every one who partook of the mental treat expressed the utmost satisfaction at the wonderful powers of Madam Catalani and Mr. Braham.—*Local Papers.*

October 8.—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire was discov-

ered in the farm-yard of Mr. Ralph Atkinson, of South Gosforth, near Newcastle, which destroyed the whole of the hay, amounting to about one hundred and fifty tons, together with eleven corn-stacks. The fire originated from the heating of the haystacks. The thrashing machine was also much damaged.—*Local Papers*.

1814 (Oct. 22).—An inquest was held at Bishopwearmouth pans, on the body of Margaret Poole, who had poisoned herself by purposely taking a large quantity of laudanum. The coroner's verdict was "Felo de se," and in consequence she was buried in the public highway, on the 24th, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators.—*Ibid*.

October 28.—Died, at Cleasby, near Darlington, Ann Donnel, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

November 8.—A new bridge built over the river Till, near Red Scar, in Northumberland, fell with a tremendous crash. The architect, who was below, removing some props, was unfortunately killed, being buried in the ruins.—*Ibid*.

November 11.—Died, in the Manor chare, Newcastle, Mr. William Middleton, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—Died, at Stockton-upon-Tees, aged 70 years, vice-admiral Nathan Brunton. He first entered the navy in the year 1771, and served on board the Marlborough, as an able seaman; master's mate on board the same ship; and on the 19th of September, 1777, was promoted to be a lieutenant; on the 21st March, 1782, to be a commander; in 1783, to be a post-captain; in 1805, was made a rear-admiral of the blue; in 1810 a vice-admiral of the blue; and on the 4th of June, 1814, to be a vice-admiral of the white. The infirmity of deafness, having greatly increased, was the reason why he could not be employed in the latter period of his life in more active service. His gallantry, and intrepidity in command, were well known; and he sustained the honest character of a British sailor in the most honourable manner.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

November 27.—Died, at Percy Main, near North Shields, Mrs. Mary Tulip, spinster, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

December 8.—Died, at Hexham, Mary Porch, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

December 10.—Died, at his house in Somerset-street, Portman square, London, in the 81st year of his age, the rev Dr. Scott, rector of Simonburn, in Northumberland. This very popular divine was a native of Leeds. He published ten Occasional Sermons, also three Seatonion Prize Poems, &c., which exalt him high as a poet. As a public speaker he had scarce an equal, and his compositions were of the most elegant kind.—*Local Rec*.

1814 (Dec. 16).—A great hurricane commenced about sun-rise, and continued through the whole day, which did great damage in Newcastle and the neighbourhood. About eight yards of the parapet wall, which surrounds the roof of All Saints' church, was blown into Silver-street; and a large stone urn was blown from the steeple, and fell at the head of the Butchers' bank. A window also of that church one of St. Nicholas', and one of Hanover-square chapel, were blown in. Stacks of chimnies in the houses of George Waldie, esq., S. W. Parker, esq., Dr. Headlam, Mr. Turner, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Bell, and many others, were blown down, and falling on the roofs, completely destroyed them. A house belonging to Mr. Charles Turner, in Pilgrim-street, had the roof and two upper stories entirely destroyed. The high brick wall that enclosed Mr. Croser's garden in the Shield-field, was blown down into the lane. The fury of the tempest was most conspicuous in the vicinity of the river Tyne, which, swelled by the rains, came rolling down like a sea, and beating with fury against the bridge, the spray was carried forward by the wind into the lower parts of the town, where it fell with all the effect of a shower of rain. The ships at the quay were obliged to strike their topgallant-masts, and not a boat durst venture on the river. A sailor was blown from the mast of a vessel at the Quay, and, falling on the deck, was killed on the spot. Two wherries were upset in the river, from both of which the people were saved. Another, laden with cinders, was swamped near the Close. Several keels were also swamped, and the crews of several which were overtaken on their passage by the storm, were obliged to throw the greater part of their coals overboard, to save themselves from sinking. Carr's-hill and Gateshead-fell, from their exposed situations, particularly felt the effects of the storm. A great part of Jarrow church was unroofed and many yards of a high garden wall at Westoe, belonging to William Ingham, esq., was blown down. The same gentleman had a hay stack blown down and scattered by the wind in all directions. Many other stacks shared the same fate, and several trees were torn up by the roots. At North Shields, several houses were unroofed, and numerous chimnies, walls, &c., were blown down. Many keels and wherries were sunk, and a keel belonging to Messrs. Nichol and Ludlow was crushed to pieces. One man fell from a keel near the New quay, and was drowned in the sight of several persons who could render him no assistance. A keel was driven out to sea with its crew on board, who, after great exertions, happily succeeded in reaching Holy Island in safety. A garden-wall, of brick, thirty yards long, near Bedford-street, with the fruit-trees, was laid flat, almost in a mass. At Durham, and the vicinity, much damage was done. A

stack of chimnies in lord Barrington's house, in the college, being blown down, fell upon the roof, through which it penetrated into the best lodging-room, destroying the bed, and forcing its way into the drawing-room below. Another stack of chimneys fell from the house of Dr. Gray into the college. At the new school in Claypath, large slates were blown to a distance of sixty yards: no person received any injury. At Sunderland the gale blew with indescribable fury. About one o'clock, a garden wall, on the east side of Nile-street, Bishopwearmouth, was blown down, and Mr. George Cameron, a very respectable master mason, of Sunderland, who was passing by at the time, was so severely wounded on the head, that he only survived three hours. The bricks flew with such violence across the street as to break several squares of glass in the houses on the opposite side. Several houses in Sunderland and the neighbourhood were entirely unroofed, and numbers were partially so.—*Local Papers.*

1814.—Died at Whitley, near North Shields, Eleanor Gibson aged 108 years.—*Ibid.*



When the workmen were, this year, forming the gears of Fawdon staith, at Wallsend, they met with much Roman masonry, and coins, a little above high-water mark. A very curious cauldron for heating water in was, also, laid open, and removed. It was square on the outside, and oval within, measured three feet deep, and five feet across one way and six the other, and was lined with a fine smooth and hard coat of cement, about an inch thick. (*Hodgson's Northd.*) The annexed

representation of a piece of Roman pottery, found at Wallsend, is copied from an engraving in Brand's History of Newcastle.

Henry Collingwood Selby, esq., of Swansfield-house, near Alnwick, erected, on a commanding eminence called the Camp-hill, a little to the south of his mansion, an elegant stone column, to commemorate the victorious efforts of Britain and her Allies, during the late war, and the restoration of peace to Europe, in the above year. On the square tablets of the four sides are suitable inscriptions.—*Mackenzie.*

A handsome cross was this year erected at Corbridge, at the expense of the late duke of Northumberland. In 1809, the old cross was taken down, and was in possession of the late George Anderson, esq., of Newcastle, who placed it in the Nun's-field, behind his house;

but in 1828, when this piece of ground was thrown open to the public, it was again taken down.—*Local Rec.*

1814.—The spire of Potter-gate tower, in Alnwick, was this year taken down, by order of the chamberlains and common council of the borough. It bore a striking resemblance to the steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. The tower, which was sixty feet in height, was erected on the site of the old gate, in the year 1768.—*Mack.*

An act of parliament was obtained, this year, for enclosing the borough lands or town fields of Gateshead, amounting to one hundred and fifty-seven acres.—*Surtees.*

1815 (Jan. 2).—The front of a house situated on the Bank-side, in the Castle-garth, in Newcastle, tenanted by five families, fell down, and its inhabitants were placed in the greatest danger. Fortunately, however, a ladder was near the place, by the assistance of which, the children were taken out of the upper window from their perilous situation.—*Local Papers.*

Under this date occurs the following entry in the register of Seaham, in the county of Durham:—"George Gordon Byron, Lord Byron of Rochdale, and Anne Isabella Milbanke of this parish, were married in Seaham House by special licence 2 Jan. 1815, by me Tho. Noel, Rector of Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, in presence of John Cam Hobhouse, of Chauntry House, Wilts, and Richard Wallis, Vicar of Seaham."—*Sharp's Chron. Mirabile.*

January 15.—Died, at Park-house, near Morpeth, Mr. George Jewit, dyer and bleacher, in his 100th year.—*Local Papers.*

January 20.—Died, at South Shields, James Sheriff, seaman, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

January 29.—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Thompson, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

February 4.—Died, near Hexham, Mrs. Eleanor Charlton, aged 99 years; her brother George, died at Birtley, aged 103 years; another brother, James, at Hexham, aged 97; and her sister Elizabeth, died at Wark, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 4.—Died, at East Sleekburn, near Morpeth, Mr. Stephen Watson, farmer, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

March 5.—The Newcastle petitions against the corn bill, were this day (Sunday) sent off to London. There were three petitions, each sixty yards long, which contained twenty-five thousand five hundred signatures, all signed within the short space of two days.—*Ibid.*

March 6.—Died, in Framwellgate, Durham, Jane Maddison, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

March 17.—Died, at Shadforth, near Durham, Mary Paddison, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

1815 (March 20).—In the afternoon, a number of misguided persons, principally keelmen and casters on the river Wear, assembled in a riotous manner near Sunderland, and determined to pull down the bridge which had been erected across Galley's gill, near Bishopwearmouth, for the purpose of conveying the coal-waggons belonging to Messrs. Nesham and Co. to the staiths below. They then proceeded to their work of destruction; and having entirely pulled down the bridge, set fire to the staiths at the head of the bridge, and burnt all the machinery which was erected there for the purpose of conveying the waggons down the inclined plane to the spouts, where the coals were put on shipboard without the intervention of keels. They also pulled down one house, and unroofed several others. Matters continued thus till a late hour at night, when a party of horse arrived from Newcastle, and dispersed the mob. One man was killed by some of the falling timbers striking him. These tumultuous proceedings originated in an idea, that other similar staiths were about to be erected upon the Wear, in consequence of which, there would not be so much employment for keelmen and casters. The injury done was estimated at £6,000.—*Local Papers*.

April 6.—Died, at Norton, near Stockton, Ann Cumming, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.



NORTON CHURCH, DURHAM (1830).

May 3.—A dreadful catastrophe occurred at Heaton main colliery, near Newcastle, by the breaking in of a quantity of water from the old workings, to which the pitman had unhappily approximated too closely. The workings of the colliery at this time were in one of the lower seams, at a very great depth, having a considerable dip or inclination from one side to the other, the shafts being on the lower side. The upper and neighbouring seams had formerly been wrought as a

colliery, under the name of Heaton Banks, by shafts distinct from the present workings, and which shafts when the colliery was given up, were covered over with boards and earth. In the course of time these old workings had become entirely filled with water. The miners were taking precautions at the time, it appears, to let off the expected influx of water by driving a drift in a direction to perforate the old workings near Heaton Burn. At four o'clock on the fatal morning, Mr. Miller, the resident or under-viewer, visited the men engaged in this operation, and a dripping of water from the roof being pointed out to him, he gave directions that the work should be squared up; and said he would send in the borers to ascertain whether the water proceeded from the waste of the old collieries or not. In less than a quarter of an hour after, the water began to run more freely through the chink; and the two drifters, becoming rather alarmed, sent their boy to apprise two other men who were working near them, with the state of the mine, and to acquaint all the men in the pit with their danger. The youth, probably impelled by fear, made the best of his way to the shaft, and escaped. The two workmen first mentioned, had now quitted the face of the drift, and presently after, a frightful crash, accompanied by a violent gust of wind, which extinguished the candles, warned them that an immense torrent of water was rushing into the mine: they fled precipitately towards the working-shaft, distant about a mile; and as the water of course flowed first down the lowest level, reached it just in time to save their lives. The two men who were working near them, the boy just mentioned, and fifteen other men and boys who were on the roly-way, were so fortunate as to make their escape, but not till the last was up to his waist in water. Every possibility of retreat to those left behind was now cut off; and seventy five human beings, (forty-one men and thirty-four boys) including Mr. Miller, were shut up in the workings towards the rise of the colliery, either to perish by hunger, or to die for want of respirable air. The sufferers who thus found a living grave, left twenty-four widows and seventy-seven orphans, besides Mrs. Miller, and her eight children, to deplore their untimely fate. Exertions were immediately made to reach the spot where the men were supposed to be, from some other workings, but without success, as the shafts of the old workings were choaked up by the earth, &c. which covered their mouths when deprived of the support of the water, having fallen in, dragging after it many trees which had been planted in their vicinity. Attempts were made in front of Heaton-hall, to endeavour to reach the old workings through a shaft which had not fallen in, but these also were unavailing, on account of being filled with inflammable air. Three large engines (one of one hundred and thirty horse power) were incessantly

employed in endeavouring to draw the water from the pit, but without effect, as the water in the shaft amounted at first to nineteen fathoms, but it subsequently gained upon them, from which it appeared that some internal reservoir had burst into the pit. At three o'clock on Thursday, it stood at thirty fathoms. During the night the water gained upon the engines, notwithstanding they discharged 1,200 gallons per minute. The water in the lowest shaft was plumbed early on the Friday morning, when it was found to be thirty-three fathoms.—In the distance between the back of Heaton and Benton-bridge, seven of the shafts belonging to the workings of an old colliery on Heaton Banks, fell in, presenting most frightful chasms. Of many of these, the surface exhibited not the least vestige, nor was their existence known in the neighbourhood. The old colliery is said to have been discontinued on account of the influx of water, which was so great, that seven engines, of the construction of that day, could not get the better of it. The first steam-engine used in this part of the country was erected at Heaton, and most probably on this colliery. From various difficulties, the bodies of these unfortunate men were not arrived at until upwards of nine months from the time of the accident. On the 6th of January 1816, the first human body of the sufferers was brought to bank, in a state of great decay, but ascertained, by the neckcloth, to be that of William Scott, between 70 and 80 years of age, who attended one of the furnaces. Of a knife which the deceased had in his pocket, the haft only (of bone) was entire, the blade being entirely corroded by the mixture of the pyrites in the mine with the water. His watch was also nearly destroyed by the same cause. It may, however, afford some speculation to the curious, that the articles of linen on the deceased were quite fresh and uninjured, but those of woollen fabric entirely destroyed. In a few weeks afterwards, the remains of the rest of these unfortunate men were found in different situations in the workings of the pit. February 20th, thirty-nine of the bodies, forming a melancholy procession, were interred in trenches in the south-east corner of Wallsend church-yard. Many of the bodies, when found, were nearly naked, and all in a state of great decay. They appeared to have all perished by starvation. They had got into a part of the pit where the water did not reach them, and had been many weeks employed in endeavouring to work their way into an old pit, by which they might have escaped. They are supposed to have failed in their attempt by the want of food to support them, as every horse in the pit was eaten to the bone. The unfortunate men had a water mark fixed up, that they might observe if it fell. One man, who is supposed to have been set to watch it, was found dead at his post.—*Local Papers. Gent's Mag. &c.*

1815 (June 1).—Died, in the workhouse of Chester-le-street, Mrs. Allen, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

June 2.—At five o'clock in the afternoon, a dreadful explosion took place in the Success pit, near Newbottle, in the county of Durham, belonging to Messrs Nesham and Co. At the time the accident happened, seventy-two men and boys were at work in the pit, and though the flame did not ascend the shaft, yet a large column of dust plainly indicated to the workmen above ground the sad catastrophe that had happened. Immediate exertions were made to save, if possible, the lives of those in the pit, in which they so far succeeded as to bring all the bodies to bank by the morning of the 4th. Very few of the bodies were disfigured, and in many life was still extant; several of whom, shocking to relate, died the moment they breathed the fresh air! Of the seventy-two in the pit, fifteen survived, some of whom were severely hurt. Of nineteen horses in the pit, six were killed. It appeared the fire passed down the ways, destroying all that encountered its fury, until it was impeded and broken, as it is termed, by a large waggon, which it dashed to pieces, and mangled the driver and horse in a most shocking manner. After the torrent had passed by them, the men left the workings in hopes of effecting their escape; but few, alas! were able to reach the shaft, and even some of those, overpowered by after-damp, at the very moment they hoped to have escaped, fell to rise no more! The first person that reached the surface was a little boy, six years of age. By this accident fifty-seven valuable lives were lost.—*Ibid*.

June 9.—A meeting was held in the town-hall, in Alnwick, (William Burrell, esq., of Broom-park, in the chair,) for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of establishing a dispensary in that town, for the benefit of the poor in Coquetdale, Bambo-rough, and Glendale wards, which was immediately carried into execution by a very liberal subscription.—*Ibid*.

June 11.—As some children were playing in a brick-yard near Shield-field, Newcastle, they picked up several guineas from some rubbish that had been led from the cellar of the Grey horse public-house, on the Quay. The circumstance having become known people flocked to the place that evening and during the next day, many of whom were well rewarded for their trouble. The cartman who had led the rubbish, hearing of the good fortune of so many, and recollecting that he had taken some of it to a brick-yard near New-Bridge-street, went thither and found several guineas. This place, too, became a scene of industry. One man went at night with a lantern, and, it is said, lined his pockets with gold. One girl got twenty-two guineas; some of them were dated 1759, but most of them were of

the coinage of 1777. Various were the conjectures employed to account for this treasure being in so extraordinary a situation. Some people related, that, about forty years before, a traveller was robbed in the Grey horse, and that a servant, who was suspected and turned away, had concealed the plunder in the cellar, and had not afterwards an opportunity of carrying it off. Others reported, that a landlord of the above house had said upon his death-bed, that he was worth a considerable sum of money, which could not afterwards be found, and it was imagined that this must have been the wealth to which he alluded.—*Local Papers*.

1815 (June 14.)—As some workmen were employed at the north-shore, near Newcastle, they discovered two human skeletons, the bones of which were in a perfect state. They were both lying together, and one diagonally over the other.—*Ibid*.



GREY HORSE, QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE (1826).

CHAPTER VII.



COUNT Lynch, mayor of Bourdeaux, arrived in Newcastle, on the 27th of June, 1815, on his way to visit his relation, John Clavering, esq., of Callaly. On the following morning the populace assembled before the Queen's Head inn, and congratulated the count with repeated huzzas on the defeat of Bonaparte at Water'loo. Count Lynch was the first to hoist the white flag in France, and surrendered Bourdeaux to the British arms. The count was similarly greeted on his arrival in Morpeth.—*Local Papers.*

June 27.—On the morning of this day, Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead, fired, during the time that Mr. William Fogget, the viewer, and his two brothers were down, all of whom were killed by the blast, and eight of the workmen were also suffocated by what is termed the after-damp.—*Ibid.*

July 1.—Died, at Broom-ridge, in Northumberland, Bridget Mahon, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

July.—This month a man employed in cutting a drain behind a house on the south side of the Main-street, Monkwearmouth, discovered the remains of two human skeletons, about three feet beneath the surface, in a bed of dark brown sand, covered with a large stone, but without the slightest appearance of a coffin; one of the skeletons appeared to be that of a female.—*Surtees.*

August 7.—A melancholy accident happened at Messrs. Nesham and Co's. colliery, at Newbottle, in the county of Durham. The proprietors had provided a powerful steam-engine, called the *iron-horse*, for the purpose of drawing ten or twelve coal-waggon to the staith at one time; and this being the day on which it was to be put in motion, a great number of persons belonging to the colliery had col-

lected to see it; but unfortunately, just as it was going off, the boiler of the machine burst. The engineman was dashed in pieces, and his mangled remains blown 114 yards; the top of the boiler (nine feet square, weight 10 cwt.) was blown 100 yards; and the two cylinders 90 yards. A little boy was also thrown to a great distance. By this accident fifty-seven persons were killed and wounded, of whom eleven were dead on the following Sunday night.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1815 (Aug. 28).—In the night the house of Miss Smith, (afterwards lady Peat), at Herrington in the county of Durham, was set fire to, after being robbed. Miss Smith was from home at the time, but a servant girl, named Isabella Young, was found in a passage leading to the kitchen, nearly naked, with two wounds on the back part of the head, and a large fracture on the fore part of it, which had occasioned her death. The fire, when discovered about two o'clock on the morning of the 29th, had not reached the body of the girl, but it appeared evident such had been the intention of the perpetrators. At the assizes held in the city of Durham, on the 13th of August 1819, John Eden, James Wolfe, and George Wolfe, his son, were put upon their trial for burglary, murder and arson, at Herrington; and after the attention of the court had been occupied upwards of nine hours, a verdict of guilty was given against John Eden and James Wolfe, who were sentenced to be hanged on the 16th. After their conviction, some circumstances appeared in favour of Wolfe, some members of the society of Friends instituted an enquiry into the particulars of the case, when an *alibi* was established, proving by numerous affidavits, that James Wolfe was one hundred miles!!! from Herrington when the murder, &c. had been committed. September 26th, he received a free pardon from the king, and was released from prison. The success attending their endeavours for Wolfe, induced the same benevolent individuals to look into the case of Eden (who still persisted in his innocence), and they found, to their great joy, that this man likewise had been falsely sworn to, by James Lincoln, a seaman of Sunderland, no doubt for the reward offered. Eden was also liberated, having obtained his majesty's pardon. At the summer assizes, held in the city of Durham, August 4th, 1820, James Lincoln was tried, and, upon the clearest evidence, was found guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.—*Local Papers.*

September 1.—Mr. Sadler, in his balloon and car, ascended from the Bowling-green (afterwards Bond-street, now Prudhoe-street), Newcastle. The day was uncommonly fine, and at an early hour the town was thronged with people to witness this unusual exhibition. The process of inflation was commenced at half-past ten, and before twelve, considerable numbers had assembled in the green, where two

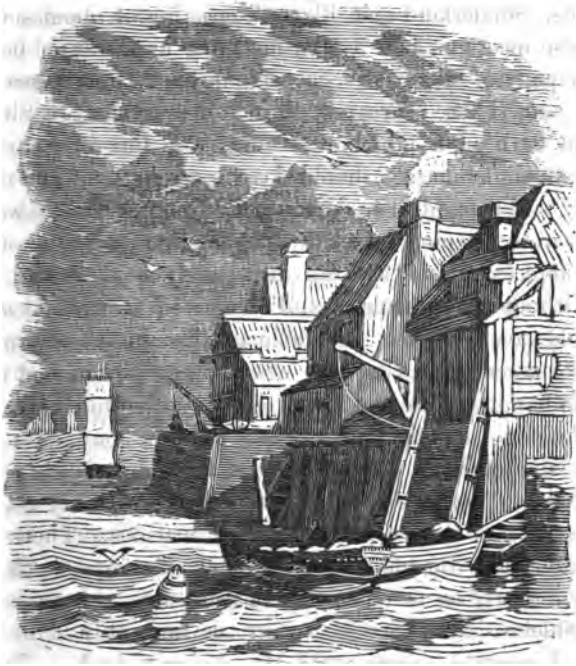
bands of music were stationed for the recreation of the company. At length the discharge of a cannon announced that the inflation was completed; but some further time elapsed before all the subsequent preparations were completed, and before the balloon could be brought to the platform. At a quarter after three, the balloon was brought forward with some difficulty, on account of the high state of the wind, when the attention of every one was fixed with anxious expectation on this strange vehicle, and the daring aéronaut who was preparing to commit himself to the bosom of the wind. At length, after receiving his flag from the hands of Mrs. Ellison, of Hebburn, the order to play "God save the King" was given; soon after which, the car was disengaged, when the balloon rose with a tremendous bound from the platform, and dashed with amazing velocity over Northumberland-street, in a direction nearly E. N. E. Soon after its ascent, the flag of the young aéronaut was observed waving in the air, but the balloon was carried forward with such rapidity, that its motions soon became indistinct, and the balloon diminished to little more than a speck. It continued in sight about fifteen minutes, when it appeared rapidly to approach the earth; on throwing out the anchor one of the flukes broke, which caused it to be dragged some distance. At length the balloon and car were secured near to the seat of T. Wright, esq., at Whitley park, and within two hundred yards of the sea, being twenty one minutes from leaving the Bowling-green. September 29th, 1824, Mr. Sadler was killed by a fall from his balloon, after having ascended majestically from the yard of the gas-works at Bolton, in Lancashire. —*Local Papers.*

1815 (Sept. 16).—In consequence of the sudden reduction of the navy, happening at the time of the arrival of the ships from the Greenland and other trades, an immense body of seamen was at once thrown unprovided for, upon the country, and in much greater numbers than could possibly, in so short a space of time, find employment in the merchant service. Great numbers of unemployed seaman consequently accumulated at the out ports, and particularly at Shields and Sunderland, where they ill-advisedly endeavoured to obtain employment from the ship-owners, by insisting that every ship should have a complement of five men and a boy for every hundred tons register admeasurement. In order to obtain this demand, they for several weeks assembled in large bodies, and forcibly prevented the sailing of all ships, by taking out the seamen, whom they compelled to join their body, under pain of having their faces blacked and their jackets turned, and being thus exhibited through the public streets, with other contemptuous treatment. They observed the strictest discipline among themselves, and severely punished those who were guilty of

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any disturbance, calling the roll every morning, and fining these who were absent without leave, and a watch was set every night to patrol the streets, and clear them of those who were guilty of any disorder, so that the greatest order prevailed in Shields streets. On the above day, (Saturday) a general meeting was held upon Cullercoats sands, when about three-thousand were present, and on Wednesday the 20th, another meeting was held at the same place of the seamen from Shields, Sunderland and Blyth, consisting of about seven-thousand. These meetings had a very alarming appearance, being composed principally of men just relieved from his majesty's service; and in consequence, HMS. *Tartarus*, of 20 guns arrived at Shields, on Sunday the 24th of September. On coming into the harbour the *Tartarus* was unfortunately driven by the strength of the tide upon the in-sand. It wanted then upwards of an hour of high water, the sailors who were keeping watch upon the sand end were of opinion that by prompt exertion, the ship might be got off at the height of the tide, without much damage, and being well aware that a number of men could save her, sent the bellman through the town to warn the sailors to assemble at the spot, who soon arrived in vast numbers, and had the happiness to see their exertions crowned with success, as the ship was got out of danger in less than an hour. On the 19th of October, the following men of war had arrived in Shield's harbour, viz:—*Tartarus* 20 guns, *Snake* 18, *Redwing* 18, *Hearty* 18, *Clinker* 14, *Cadmus* 14, and *Griper* 12, all full of marines. There was also at North and South Shields, a great number of troops, both infantry and cavalry. Early on the morning of this day, the ship *Renown*, of South Shields, Mr. Cleugh, owner, having only two boys on board, was discovered on fire, near Mr. Laing's dock. The alarm bell was rung, the several troops of horse scoured the streets, and every class assisted in quelling the flames. As the two boys were in the half-deck asleep when the alarm was given, and the fire was in the fore-part of the ship, it was believed to be the act of incendiaries. The cables, sails, &c., on board, were entirely destroyed, and the hull of the vessel much injured. His majesty's pardon and a reward of 600 guineas were offered for the apprehension of the offenders. This day, also, one of the sailors, (a mate of a ship) having broke from the mob, was sworn in a special constable; in an hour after, his house was broke into, door-frames and all destroyed, himself taken violently; after knocking down three or four of the ringleaders. He was made fast by the middle and hung on a gallows, at the Low lights, near the men of war; after hanging some time, he was cut down (not much injured except in the struggle), soured in a tub of water, and then compelled to walk amongst the

breakers of the king's peace. · On the morning of Saturday the 21st of October, the magistrates proceeded to North Shields with all the military force. This was the day that the courage of these misguided men were to put to the test in a *bad cause*; in a good one it was unnecessary. All the military and naval forces stationed at North and South Shields having been assembled under the command of



AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

major gen. Riall and capt. Toker, and the military, both infantry and cavalry, being posted on the North side, a disposition was made to send to sea as many vessels with coals as could be manned; and on the part of the refractory seamen there also appeared an intention to resist the proceedings of the king's forces. The seamen collected to the number of several thousands; but none appeared in arms. The mayor of Newcastle and the magistrates on the spot as well as those from the neighbouring sea-ports, had consultations with the military and naval commanders, with a view, that if force should prove necessary it might be used with as little bloodshed as possible. A body of marines first took possession of the bridge of boats, which formed the passage for the sailors between the north and south side of the river, and the latter being thus deprived of the means of escape, the cavalry on the north side made more of a

demonstration, than of a real charge against them. This was sufficient, however, to drive them to the river side and place them entirely at the mercy of the soldiers, and accordingly they sought their safety in dispersion and flight. The commander of the forces anticipating such an event had ordered a particular look out to be kept for the committee who were known by their dress. The greatest part of them seized a boat and attempted their escape by water but were made prisoners in their flight. The king's ships now afforded a rallying point for those sailors who had been detained by the committee against their will, several availed themselves of their protection, and offered to proceed instantly to sea with any vessel that might be ready. With these men and the apprentices in the harbour, capt. Toker was enabled to send to sea from twenty to twenty-five colliers; and on Wednesday October 25th, the disputes between the shipowners and the seamen, were happily so far adjusted, that one hundred and fifty sail, many of which had been nine weeks in Shields harbour, proceeded to sea.—*Lon. Gen. Evening Post.*

1815 (Nov. 8).—Died, at the Riding mills, in the county of Durham, aged 102, Margaret Brown. She was mother of eight children, grandmother of thirty-five, and great-grandmother of seventy-two.—*Gent's. Mag.*

November 22.—Died, in the High-bridge, Newcastle, Mr. James Sands, aged 40 years. He had been confined to his room above 30 years, in consequence of a paralytic affection. Through the strength of his genius, he surmounted every difficulty his peculiar situation opposed to the acquisition of knowledge, having, without instruction, made an extraordinary proficiency in the ancient and modern languages, and acquired considerable skill in various branches of the sciences. He was the author of the following novels, which were very favourably received by the public, viz: "Monckton, or the Fate of Eleanor," 3 vols.; "Count de Novini, or the Confederate Carthussians," 3 vols.; "The Eventful Marriage," 4 vols.; and "Dangerous Secrets," 2 vols. He was also the author of "The Oath," a play which was performed in the Newcastle theatre. He likewise contributed a great number of ingenious poetical pieces, essays, letters, &c., to different periodical publications.—*Local Rec.*

December 8.—As four of the workmen were employed on a stage seventy fathoms down the shaft of Nesham's main colliery, repairing the masonry, one of them came to the bank to get something he wanted; while talking to the banksman, and incautiously passing along a plank, he fell down upon the stage he had a few minutes before left, and so great was the force acquired in his fall, that three beams six inches by four, which supported the stage, were broken by

the shock, and the poor fellow with his three companions were precipitated to the bottom (55 fathoms further) and all dashed to pieces.—*Local Papers*.

1815 (Dec. 9).—This day (Saturday) their imperial highnesses the archdukes, John and Lewis of Austria, with their suite arrived in Newcastle; soon after which, they were waited upon by the right worshipful the mayor and several of the aldermen, when the mayor requested the honour of entertaining them at the mansion-house, which their imperial highnesses declined, observed that they were sensible of the honour intended them, but, that they wished to be considered as travelling privately. On the same day they visited Shields, and Wallsend, and Percy main collieries, where they were attended by John Buddle, esq., who described to them the nature of the subterraneous workings, &c. On Sunday forenoon they attended at the Roman Catholic chapel in Newcastle; and in the afternoon paid a visit to Sunderland to see the cast-iron bridge of that town. Their imperial highnesses and suite expressed great astonishment and pleasure at the structure and ingenuity in the erection of the same, and its wonderful span. On Monday they proceeded, attended by T. H. Bigge and Joseph Lamb, esq., to Lemington, to see the iron and glass works established there. Their attention was forcibly arrested by the locomotive engine at work upon Wylam waggon-way. After partaking refreshment at Mr. Lamb's they returned, and afterwards visited the shot and white-lead works at Low Elswick, and Messrs. Hawks' iron foundry at New Greenwich. On the Tuesday morning, their imperial highnesses set off on their way to the south.—*Ibid.*

December 11.—A fire unfortunately took place in Sheriff-hill colliery, owing to the wooden partition which separated the upcast from the downcast shaft, taking fire from the coal lamp, which is used to cause the updraught of air necessary for the ventilation of the pit. Every exertion was used to get both men and horses out of the pit, as the destruction of the partition necessarily destroyed the circulation of air within the workings. They succeeded in getting out all but five wastemen, who unhappily perished.—*Ibid.*

December 20.—A most dreadful fire broke out in the extensive granaries of Messrs. Johnson, Carr, and Co., John Dewar, John Waugh, John Forster, and George Sligh, in Berwick. The fire originated from the kiln used for drying grain being overheated, and was discovered about six o'clock in the evening, but did not burst into a flame till near seven, when it raged with such fury, that in a short time, the granaries (about two-hundred feet in length) were reduced to ashes. The damage was estimated at £5,000. At twelve

o'clock the fire-bell was rung a second time, the flames having broke out in a hay loft belonging to William Bell, of the Old Hen and Chickens inn. Had the wind blown as strong from the west as it did from the north-east, no exertion could have saved the whole of Bridge-street from being burnt down. No lives were lost. Few of the sufferers were insured.—*Local Papers*.

1815 (Dec. 29).—On repairing the north aisle of Alnwick church, Mr. Thomas Patterson discovered two stone statues about two feet below the surface. They are of exquisite workmanship and great antiquity. The largest is supposed to represent a king, and is painted as having a scarlet gown and crimson robe lined with ermine, an ermine tippet over the shoulders, and bound about the middle with a gilt strap. On the left side is a purse, and on the right a string of beads; in the left hand is a globe, in the right a sceptre, and at the feet are the royal arms. The other statue is supposed to represent a martyr; it is carved as being naked, except a piece of drapery about its middle. The legs, thighs, and body, are transfixd with nine arrows, and the hands and feet, are bound in fetters. These statues were found without their heads. They are now placed below the belfry at the west end of the church.—*Ibid*.

In the night of this day, the paper mill belonging to Mr. Lumley, at Butterby, near Durham, was blown down. The building extended across a valley, and was about one hundred feet long, the upper part being constructed of wood and brick pillars, the lower floor of stone. The wind sweeping across the vale, and taking the building at its broadside, tore away the roof and the whole of the upper story, or drying rooms; nothing remained standing but the two gable ends and the walls of the lower rooms. The fall of the roof forced in the pillars of the drying rooms, breaking some massy beams, and involving in the general ruin a quantity of paper in an unfinished state, all the vats, and the various utensils used in the mill.—*Ibid*.

December 30.—In consequence of a rapid thaw, accompanied by wind and rain, there was a great flood in the river Tyne, which was supposed by many persons to have done nearly as much injury, though it did not rise to so great a height, as the flood in 1771. The water was at its greatest height about five o'clock on the morning of the above day (Saturday), when its appearance was particularly awful. Some idea of the force of the current may be formed from the circumstance of the Carlisle, London trader, which was lying alongside the quay at Newcastle, having torn up the cannon to which she was moored, and broken adrift. Another vessel also broke adrift from the Carlisle running foul of her, but both vessels were soon after brought up and secured. Most of the other vessels at the

Quay were obliged, for security, to bring their anchors ashore, and fasten them up to the stems in the pavement. The Quay and lower part of the Close were overflowed, and almost every cellar filled with water, by which great loss was sustained; many of the cellars being full of sugars and other dry goods. A man named James Craig, and a youth named John Hoggins, both belonging to Newcastle, were unfortunately drowned, while humanely endeavouring to rescue Robert Lindsay and his two sons, the crew of a keel, which, about eleven o'clock on the Friday night, had got fixed lengthways across the second arch from the north end of the bridge. The piteous cries of the keelmen induced the man and boy to put off in a small boat to their assistance; they succeeded in rescuing the men from the keel, but, on their return the boat was swamped in a strong eddy, and the man and boy were drowned. Great apprehensions were at one time entertained for the safety of the bridge, some of the arches being choaked up with keels, ice, and pieces of timber. Happily, however, the bridge stood firm. The two southern arches of Haydon-bridge, were carried away at nine o'clock on the Friday night. In Shields harbour, some lives were lost by the upsetting of a boat, and upwards of thirty vessels drifted from their moorings, and were driven upon the Herd sand. Several keels were also blown out to sea, with their crews, some of which were seen off Flamborough Head. The effects of the flood was severely felt by the farmers and others on both sides of the river, in the loss of horses, cows, sheep, pigs, &c. All the low grounds in the neighbourhood of Ponteland were overflowed, and many of the inhabitants were roused from their sleep by the water entering their beds. Considerable damage was done at Durham, Darlington, Sunderland, Hexham, &c. The wind corn-mill of Mr. Heron, about half-a-mile to the westward of Sunderland, ran amain, and taking fire from the friction, was burnt to the ground. On the river Wear, the ships and keels were nearly all adrift, but were secured before they got to sea. Great damage was done by this storm on the banks of the rivers Tees and Wear.—*Local Papers*.

1815.—Stockton was made a bonding port for goods enumerated in Table C. of the Warehousing Act; and in 1818 the indulgence was extended to timber.—*Surtees*.

This year, died, at Sunderland, Ann Appleby, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers*.

1816 (Jan. 3).—Died, at the Low Felling, near Gateshead, Alice Blackett, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

January 4.—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, where she had resided 50 years, Ann Carpenter, aged 110 years.—*Ibid*.

January 9.—Died, at his house, near the Wind-mill hills, Gates-

head, Thomas Thompson, merchant, in the 43rd year of his age. His death was caused by cold and fatigue, in his exertions to save his property (timber), from the ravages of the destructive flood in the preceding month. From an humble origin, he raised himself by his talents and merits to a respectable rank in society; his loss was severely felt in the extensive circle of his friends, as well as in the public festivals of the town, to the mirth of which his exquisitely humorous songs in the pure Newcastle dialect, contributed a large portion. Besides being the author of "Canny Newcastle," "Jemmy Johnson's Whurry," "New Keel Row," and other descriptive local songs, Mr. Thompson wrote several graver pieces, of considerable merit.—*Gent's Mag.*

1816 (Jan. 12).—Died, at the Windy-nook, Gateshead Fell, Mary Henderson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

January 29.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Thomas Coulson, glass-maker, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

This month, a stone coffin of the usual form was discovered about a foot below the surface, immediately without the east chancel walls of Boldon church, Durham. It had no lid or inscription.—*Surtees.*

A temporary bridge was this month finished across the river Tyne, at Haydon-bridge, for the convenience of travellers.—*Local Papers.*

January—Died, at the North-shore, Newcastle, William Forster, aged 60 years. In the early part of the revolutionary war with France, a ship, in which he was mate, was taken by a privateer; and he only of the crew being left on board with six Frenchmen, contrived to retake her with that number, and brought her into port.—*Gent's Mag.*

February 3.—Died, in Milburn-gate, Durham, Mrs. Ann Smith, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 5.—Died, at East Brunton, in Northumberland, Mr. John Wallace, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

The beginning of this year, vigorous efforts were made to establish a branch custom-house at North Shields. This excited considerable interest both at that place and Newcastle, and deputations from these places, composed of respectable merchants and shipowners, were sent to London for the purpose of conferring with his majesty's ministers on the expediency of the measure. The lord chancellor and sir William Scott, natives of Newcastle, were decidedly against it. The lords of the treasury at length finally determined that no branch of the custom-house at Newcastle should be established at Shields; but such masters of colliers, as might wish it, would in future be permitted to sign the coast bond at Shields. Newcastle was also highly indebted to sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Cuthbert Ellison,

esq., members of parliament for that town, for their unremitted exertions on this occasion.—*Local Papers*.

Another attempt was afterwards made by the shipowners of Shields to obtain the privilege of a distinct custom-house, but the lords of the treasury again decided against making any alteration in the mode of conducting the customary business of the port.—*Ibid*.

1816 (March 13.)—Died, at Stockton-upon-Tees, aged 70, Mr. John Chipchase, one of the people called quakers; a respectable man, and a distinguished teacher of mathematics. Born to no rank but that which is our natural heritage, he depended upon the assistance of kind friends, and his own industrious application, for that which he acquired. In early life he received the instruction of Mr. Claxton, an ingenious schoolmaster in Stockton, and the gratuitous information of Mr. Wright, a merchant of that place. But that which probably superseded, or rather completed, what these good friends had begun, was the circumstance of his being afterwards a pupil of W. Emerson of Hurworth, a name of the highest mathematical celebrity. John Chipchase was a successful teacher for half a century. Residing in a sea-port town, his instruction was invaluable for young men studying navigation. He attended the boarding schools for young ladies; and young persons of all descriptions, under a course either of public or private education, for two, and in some instances, for three generations, have been placed under his care, and acknowledge their obligations to him; particularly for their instruction in geography and astronomy. Before the last long and dreadful war had shut up our communication with the Continent, several young Danes and Norwegians, connected with the merchants in Stockton, were placed under his tuition.—He had an ever-searching mind, and recorded what the unthinking would call trifles, but which are often very useful hand-maids of philosophy. He was strongly attached to his native town, and particularly to its local history. He was an active member of the religious society with which he associated; and in controversial politics (in which he never violently engaged) his sentiments were on, what is sometimes called, the liberal side of the question. With much study, and attention to his numerous pupils, he appears to have injured his constitution, which had never been strong; and after a short, but violent attack of illness, he expired, much lamented by his scholars, who held his memory in respect, and by his acquaintance, who, in him, always acknowledged a friend.—*Gent's Mag*.

About this period an explosion occurred in Walbottle colliery, near Newcastle, by which three men and eleven boys were dreadfully scorched. One hundred and twenty men and boys were at work in the mine at the time of the accident.—*Mon. Mag*.

1816 (April 12).—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Mary Richardson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.



IN THE LOW-STREET, NORTH SHIELDS (1843).

April 20.—Whole length portraits of the lord chancellor (Eldon), and sir William Scott, judge of the admiralty court, were placed in the Guildhall, Newcastle, one on each side of the portrait of lord Collingwood, forming an illustrious trio, all natives of that town. The portraits are by Owen.—*Ibid*.

April 23.—The second centenary of the immortal bard, Shakespere, was celebrated in Newcastle, by a grand dinner at the Queen's head inn, which was attended by about sixty of the admirers of the poet of nature. William Loraine, esq., in the chair. Songs and glees were sung by the professional gentleman present, and Mr. Stephen Kemble gave a long and able dissertation on the comparative merits of different poets. At the theatre, in the evening, the performances closed with a representation of Garrick's celebrated jubilee at Stratford.—*Ibid*.

This month, an excellent portrait of the duke of Northumberland, painted by Philips, and elegantly framed, was placed in the grand jury room of the new courts of justice for the county of Northumberland, in Newcastle. The portrait was a present from his grace to

the magistrates of the county, who had requested "that a picture (to be painted at their expence) of the munificent donor of £3,000. towards the building of the courts, might adorn their walls." His grace very obligingly complied in sitting to the artist, but converted the finished production into an additional present to the county. This portrait was most exquisitely engraved by Thomas Fryer Ranson, a native of Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

1816 (May 10).—Died, at the Low row, near Willington, Northumberland, Dorothy Philips, aged 110 years.—*Ibid*.

May 14.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Jane Webster, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

May 31.—The society of Arts presented a silver medal to William Reid Clanny, esq., M.D., of Bishopwearmouth, for his safety lamps for coal mines. This society, in the following year, presented the doctor with a gold medal for a steam safety lamp.—*Local Rec*.



This month, died in the County poor-house, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, John Moffatt, better known by the name of *Dummy*, never having had the faculty of speech. This eccentric character had been in the poor-house about thirty-six years, and was supposed, at the time of his death, to be near 80 years of age. He had two large excrescences under his chin, very much resembling the *goitres* of Switzerland. He

was particularly fond of military costume, in which habiliments he was generally dressed, and his partiality for fiddling was indicated by imitating that performance with a stick across his arm.—*Ibid*.

June 3.—In the evening, signor de Montfort, had an exhibition of fire-works in the Spital-field, Newcastle, when the following melancholy occurrence took place:—Owing to the great strength of the wind at the time, the sparks from one of the large wheels fell on the stage, on which four rockets were lying; these were ignited by the sparks, and flying off in different directions, one of them unfortunately struck a youth of the name of John Price on the breast, when he almost immediately expired. The deceased was fifteen years of age. Some other persons were also hurt.—*Local Papers*.

June 15.—A fire broke out in the dwelling-house of Mr. J. Miller, at Brinkburn colliery, near Morpeth, which, in a short time, destroyed the house, with a joiner's shop and stable, and a large quantity of wood. Miller's wife, with an infant only three days old in her arms, had to make her escape by the window, with other five children, all

without clothing; two lodgers also lost every thing except what they had on their persons.—*Local Papers*.

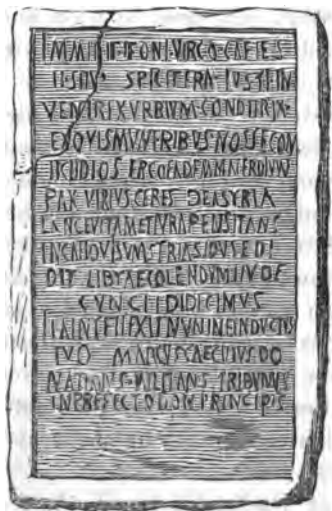
1816 (June 18).—The first anniversary of the memorable victory of Waterloo, was observed in Newcastle, with every mark of public rejoicing. A royal salute was fired at noon and at sunset from the guns on the castle, and many a merry peal was rung by the bells of the different churches during the day.—*Ibid*.

This day was observed by the gallant 33rd regiment of foot, quartered in Sunderland barracks, as a high festival. On the morning, the regiment had a grand field day, when the men all wore a sprig of laurel in their caps, and fired several rounds in honour of the occasion. The officers in the latter part of the day gave an elegant dinner to many gentry in the town and neighbourhood. At night the garrison was illuminated, when various transparencies were displayed. The non-commissioned officers had a ball and refreshments in one of the barracks; and the men were also permitted to regale and enjoy themselves in commemoration of a day, when their sufferings were so great, and when they contributed so much by their valour to the attainment of the glorious result.—*Ibid*.

June 30.—Died, at Darlington, aged 53, Adam Yarker, better known by the name of *Blind Adam*, having been blind from his birth. He possessed a strong memory, which he particularly applied to the registering the number of deaths, &c., which occurred for upwards of forty years in Darlington. Without hesitating a moment, he could tell how many deaths had been in any given year or month, the exact day when the individual died, to whom they were related, &c. He was noted for the keeping of poultry, in which he greatly excelled; his hens, owing to his superior management, laid their eggs in the winter season; he knew them from each other, and could tell their name, colour, &c., as soon as he got them in his hand. Although he was descended from poor parents, and had but a small pittance, called the blind's bounty, with the benevolence of a few charitable individuals, the profits arising from his poultry, &c., enabled him to realise £200.—*Local Rec*.

July 1.—The foundation stone of a column erected by the tenantry of the duke of Northumberland, to perpetuate his grace's munificence and numerous acts of kindness, was laid with great rejoicings. The procession moved from the White Swan inn, Alnwick, to the site of the column, adjoining the road on the south entrance into that town. In a cavity were deposited the regimental roll, written on vellum, of the late Percy tenantry volunteers, hermetically closed in a glass tube, together with several medals. When the clergyman had concluded a prayer, corn, wine, and oil, were poured upon the stone, and the

company united in shouts of applause; after which the procession returned. The column was built on the plan of his grace's architect, the late David Stephenson, esq., of Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*



1816 (July 3).—A tablet of freestone, in fine preservation, bearing an inscription to Ceres, in irregular Iambic verses, was presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, by colonel Coulson, of Blenkinsopp castle. The tablet was found in Caervoran, one of the stations on the Roman wall, in Northumberland. The inscription is an accurate but mystical exposition of the creed of a Roman soldier, respecting the mother of the gods, it is thus translated by the rev. John Hodgson :—

The virgin that in her celestial seat impends over the lion,
Is the corn-bearer, the inventor of right, the builder of cities,
By whose blessings we are permitted to know the gods;
The same is, therefore, the mother of the gods, peace, virtue, Ceres,
The Syrian Goddess, poising in a balance life and laws.
Syria has sent forth a star, seen in heaven,
To be worshipped by Lybia, from thence we all proceed;
Thus, under the guidance of thy grace, hath understood;
Marcus Cæcilius Donatinus, a warfaring
Tribune in the office of prefect by the bounty of the emperor.

History of Northd. &c.

July 6.—Some workmen employed at the quarry at Hetton, Northumberland, on removing the earth, near the old Roman road, discovered about four feet below the surface, an urn rudely carved and

filled with black ashes, near it was a stone coffin about three feet four inches long, and two feet two inches in width, containing the remains of a body lying on the left side; the legs folded up behind the thighs. From the rough state of the coffin, no inscription could be traced.—*Hist. of Northd.*

1816 (July 10).—About twelve o'clock at night, an alarming fire broke out in the upper part of a building in the Pudding-chare, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Beeney, painter and glazier, as a varnishing room, and by Mr. Lawson as a currier's work shop. The fire had arrived at a considerable height before it was discovered, but the firemen succeeded in getting it under by about two o'clock, without doing much further damage than destroying the upper stories of the building in which it originated, together with the property contained therein. Mr. Beeney's loss was considerable, not being insured. Mr. Richardson, the owner of the premises, and Mr. Lawson, were both insured.—*Local Papers.*

August 5.—The ship *Flora*, of London, having just taken in a cargo of coals from Messrs. Nesham and Co's. staith at Sunderland, blew up with a terrible explosion, the deck beams being broken, and the decks completely torn up, with considerable other damage. This was occasioned by the inflammable state of the coal, and the air being entirely excluded from the hold.—*Ibid.*

August 17.—John Greig, for the murder of Elizabeth Stonehouse, of Monkwearmouth, was executed pursuant to his sentence, on a drop erected in front of the new county court house at Durham. He was a stout good-looking man, thirty-seven years of age.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—About four o'clock on the morning, an alarming fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Coxon, of Milburn-place, North Shields, pawnbroker, by which the whole of the internal part of the building, furniture, and pledged goods were consumed.—*Ibid.*

Same day, died at Sunderland, Margaret Archer, aged 110 years.—*Ibid.*

September 7.—James O'Neil for robbing Mr. George Angus, carrier of Mickley, on the highway, on his return from the preceding October Cow-hill fair, was executed pursuant to his sentence, on the Town-moor, Newcastle. The body, after hanging the usual time, was cut down, and conveyed by the friends of the deceased to a public-house near the gaol, where it was *waked*, and on the following day (Sunday) it was interred at St. Andrew's church; about thirty Irish people following it to the grave.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—During a tremendous hurricane, the patent iron wands of the corn-mill at Byker-hill, near Newcastle, were carried away for the third time in two years, and fell with a dreadful crash.

In Newcastle many buildings were injured, and a large ash tree, which had for many generations stood in the west corner of the vicarage garden, in Westgate-street, was blown down, to the great regret of the inhabitants. It was somewhat remarkable that this tree, which, for many years, had been frequented by rooks, was this year deserted by them, a solitary pair only making their nest in it.

—*Local Papers.*



RUINS OF ST. CUTHBERT'S CATHEDRAL, HOLY ISLAND (1814).

1816 (Sep.)—The view of that venerable ruin, the cathedral of St. Cuthbert, at Holy Island, was considerably improved by the wreck and rubbish of the fallen parts of the building being removed from the windows, which had for ages been blocked up; but most especially by the great western door of the church being opened out, which the sun had not shone upon for centuries past, the architecture of which is the true Saxon, highly ornamented, with three columns on each side of the door. The amateurs of antiquities are indebted to Mr. Selby, of Swansfield, for this great improvement.—*Local Rec.*

September 18.—Many of the tradesmen in Sunderland, injudiciously refused taking the shillings and sixpences that were plain, and without remains of the impression. In consequence of this, a large concourse of the poor inhabitants met after dark, and commenced an attack upon the shops of Messrs. Caleb Wilson, Natrass, Middlebrook, Walton, Andrews, Hall, &c., all grocers and flour dealers; the

windows of both shops and houses were nearly demolished, and the shop of Middlebrook completely gutted by the mob, who were seen running away with hams, bacon, groceries, &c. After the shop had been forced open, the 33rd regiment was called out, and, on the riot act being read about midnight, they prepared to act hostilely, when the mob in a great degree dispersed, but not before several soldiers received severe bruises from bricks, &c. The house of Mr. Barnes, surgeon, being at this time rebuilding, the mob took thence many hundred bricks for their destructive purposes; the town continued in great alarm and commotion for some time on this event.—*Local Rec.*

1816 (Sep. 21).—Died, at Chirton, near North Shields, Mr. William Elliot, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

September 30.—Died, at Old Walker, near Newcastle, Mrs. Jane Jowsey, aged 104 years. She possessed all her faculties until the time of her dissolution; she could sew, spin, knit, and read small print without the aid of spectacles.—*Ibid.*

October 9.—A Roman gold coin of the emperor Galba, about 1400 years old, with a fine head quite perfect, was found in a field near Chester-le-street, by a young woman gathering potatoes; it weighed about two-thirds of a guinea. It was placed in the valuable collection of Robert Surtees, esq., of Mainsforth.—*Local Rec.*

October 11.—Witton castle and estate in the county of Durham, were sold by auction in the city of Durham, for the sum of £78,000.—*Dur. Adv.*

October 18.—A riot took place at Sunderland this day, (Friday) which is the market-day there. A farmer had been asking 16s. a bushel for his wheat, when a fellow standing by him forcibly seized the sack and ran off with it. This daring outrage was the signal for the whole of the corn being seized by the populace, and instantly the whole market became the scene of the utmost confusion and alarm. The shop-keepers shut in their windows, the magistrates appeared and read the riot act, and the military were ordered to be in readiness, but fortunately their services were not required. By the active exertions of about sixty special constables, the corn was nearly all recovered and tranquility restored.—*Local Papers.*

November 22.—A tremendous fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. James Hewet, ship-chandler, in the Low-street of North Shields, which were totally consumed, and the adjoining premises considerably injured.—*Ibid.*

November 29.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mrs. Elizabeth Broderick, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

December 13.—The grand duke Nicholas, of Russia, and his suite arrived at Sunderland; and the morning following, attended by the

rev. Dr. Gray, minutely inspected the pier, the iron bridge, the coal staith of Messrs. Nesham and Co., and afterwards took refreshment at Bishopwearmouth rectory house. They then set out for Newcastle, and on their arrival, his imperial highness proceeded to the royal Jubilee School, where he was met by the rev. William Turner, one of the secretaries. Though Saturday is not a regular school day, yet at the request of Dr. Hamel, who had arrived the day before, Mr. Drury, the master of the school, had assembled all the boys, to the number of nearly five hundred. This being the first Lancastrian school which his highness had seen, he appeared to be powerfully interested, and attentively examined all their performances. Before leaving the school, he inscribed with his own hand in the visitors' book, his name in the Russ character, to remain as a testimonial of his visit. From the school the prince proceeded to Wallsend colliery, where Mr. Buddle explained the whole process of ventilating and working the mines and the shipping of coal. Mr. Bewick had afterwards the honour of laying before the grand duke specimens of his skill in the art of engraving upon wood, which were closely examined, and much approved of by his highness. On Sunday morning, the right worshipful the mayor, sir Thomas Burdon, knt., paid his respects to his imperial highness, to tender him the honours and hospitality of Newcastle. His highness regretted that want of time did not allow him to accept the invitation, and indeed he almost immediately set off for Alnwick castle, and thence to Berwick, where he passed the night. His suite consisted of the following persons:—Baron Nicholay, sir William Congreve, Koutousof, Dr. Crichton, General Saurassoff, M. Klinker, M. Marsell, and M. Parosky.—*Local Papers*.

1816.—The alms-houses “for the convenient lodging of poor impotent persons belonging to the township of Stockton” erected about the year 1682, having fallen into decay, were, this year, rebuilt in a handsome style, and occupy a conspicuous situation on the east side of the High-street. This structure derives its origin from the benevolence of George Brown, esq., of Stockton, and of Threadneedle-street, London, who bequeathed three thousand pounds, for this purpose.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

Ebenezer meeting-house (Presbyterian) Alnwick founded. The register of births and baptisms 24 entries, extending from 1817 to 1831.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

This year the freedom of Berwick was voted to admiral lord Exmouth, and to admiral sir David Milne, for highly distinguished and meritorious services at Algiers. His lordship replied by a letter of thanks, stating that this was the first compliment that he had received since his arrival in England from Algiers.—*Local Papers*.

1816.—One of those wise and prudent institutions, a savings' bank, was, this year, established at Morpeth, under the patronage and trust of the duke of Portland, sir C. M. L. M. Monck, bart., and W. Ord, esq. M. P., and in 1829. a neat commodious building was erected, in which the business of the bank is now transacted.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

This year, Algernon Percy, only brother to the duke of Northumberland, was created lord Prudhoe, baron of Prudhoe castle, in Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*



GATEWAY, PRUDHOE CASTLE (1814).

1817 (Jan. 4).—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Ralph Beilby, a native of Durham, in the 74th year of his age. He was the son of Mr. William Beilby, a respectable jeweller and goldsmith in Durham, but being unsuccessful in business, he removed to Newcastle. Ralph having learnt to be a silversmith, jeweller, and seal engraver, under his father, became the common resource in several useful arts and accomplishments. To the engraving of arms and letters on seals and silver plate, he added engraving on copper, as there were at that time no engravers in the north of England. Mr. Beilby executed heraldic engravings with extraordinary facility, and his plate of "Thornton's Monument," in Brand's History of Newcastle, shows that he also possessed considerable skill in engraving upon copper. But he was most distinguished for his literary and scientific pursuits; he also understood the science of music well, and in his youth played double bass at the rev. Dr. Brown's private concerts. He was one of the

first and warmest promoters of the Literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle, and was highly esteemed.—*Local Rec.*

1817 (Jan. 13).—Died, at Shincliff, near Durham, Mr John Lamb, farmer, aged 100 years. It was the anniversary of his birth day.—*Local Papers.*

January 30.—Eighteen waggons belonging to the artillery arrived in Newcastle on their way to Scotland, under a military escort. They were laden with the new silver coin to the amount, in weight, of twenty-four tons.—*Ibid.*

February 12.—A most destructive fire occurred at Darlington, by which the extensive woollen-manufactory, belonging to Messrs. Edward and Joseph Pease, and other property, valued at thirty thousand pounds, were destroyed, and five hundred people thrown out of employ.—*Genl's Mag.*

February 13.—The new silver coin was delivered from the Mint office, in the Close, to the public in Newcastle, in exchange for the old standard coin of the realm, however defaced or reduced in weight by use.—*Local Papers.*

This month, there were found in the ancient manor of Ulchester, Northumberland, nearly one thousand silver coins, which appeared to be pennies of the reigns of Stephen and Henry II.—*Ibid.*

March.—Died in the poor-house of St. Nicholas', Durham, William Williamson, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 8.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Isabella Thompson, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

April 14.—Martha Wilson was found suspended from a nail in the wall of her apartment in the Trinity-house, Newcastle. After a careful examination of witnesses before the coroner and jury, a verdict of *felo de se* was found, and in consequence her body was interred in the public highway, a little to the east of the toll-gate, and in front of the buildings which have since been named Ridley Villas.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—Died, in the house of Correction in Durham, where he had been kept nearly forty-six years, a man usually called *Dickey*, a lunatic, whose real name could never be made out, but which was supposed to have been Richard Williamson. This extraordinary man was first discovered in 1771, in a complete state of nudity, in an out-building in the fields near Newton-hall, then the seat of Thomas Liddell, esq., who allowed him 1s. a-week towards his maintenance, and which was continued by his successors, and, with the allowance from the county, and the kind attention of the governors of the house, rendered his life comfortable. It was generally conjectured, that he had been a lunatic confined in some receptacle, whence he had escaped. He was never able either to tell his name or give the

smallest account of himself, nor could any discovery ever be made where he came from, or to whom he belonged, though, from his dialect, he seemed to have come from the south. He was perfectly harmless, and appeared to have had a good education, from his being able to repeat many parts of the service of the church, particularly the morning service, which he frequently did with great propriety. He was supposed, at the time of his death, to be about 80 years of age.—*Local Rec.*

1817 (April 20).—Died, at Plessey, Northumberland, Margaret Stafford, aged 106 years.—*Local Papers.*

April 28.—Died, at the Peace and Unity Hospital, Westgate, Newcastle, aged 101, Mrs. Anne Tindal, who had been a widow 66 years. When 99 she had the misfortune to have her thigh bone broke, of which she was cured in the infirmary; and about six weeks before her death, her shoulder was dislocated, of which she also had recovered.—*Gent's. Mag.*

April 29.—The marriage of earl Percy, at Northumberland-house, Strand, London, to lady Charlotte Florentia Olive, youngest daughter of the earl of Powis, was celebrated at Alnwick, by the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, and an ox roasted in the Market-place; it was cut up by Mr. George Lindsay, butcher, on a scaffold erected for the purpose, and distributed amongst the populace, together with a proportionate quantity of bread and ale. The whole was conducted with the greatest harmony.—*Local Papers.*

April 29.—The foundation stone of a new Independent Meeting-house was laid with much ceremony, in Villiers-street, Sunderland, by the rev. Mr. Parsons, of Leeds.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Hexham, Mr. John Bewick, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. Margaret Cundell, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Rig End, near Falstone, Mrs. Heron, widow, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

June 1.—Died, at St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, Sarah Forster, aged 109 years.—*Ibid.*

June 3.—Died, at the High Felling, near Gateshead, John Maclay, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—Died, at Hexham, Elizabeth Carr, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—Died, at Brancepath castle, in the county of Durham, in his 83rd year, William Russell, esq., whose mild and amiable qualities had not less endeared him to his family and friends, than his genuine benevolence and public spirit had entitled him to universal respect and esteem. Among many other instances of his well-directed

munificence and patriotism may be mentioned an hospital, which he founded and liberally endowed some years previously in the county of Durham, for a considerable number of aged persons, with a school attached for a large establishment of boys and girls. In 1795, Mr. Russell was prominently instrumental in raising a large body of infantry in the county of Durham, to the expence of which he mainly contributed; and subsequently, at the cost of several thousand pounds, entirely borne by himself, he raised and equipped a numerous corps of sharp-shooters (the Wallsend riflemen, commanded by John Budde, esq;) esteemed one of the most complete in the kingdom. During the period of distress which shortly preceded his disease, and up to the moment of his death, he received and maintained the poor coming from all quarters in barracks constructed for the purpose, where every requisite comfort and accommodation was provided for them, while he kept alive their habits of industry by employing such as were able in various works upon his extensive estates.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1817 (June 12).—Died, in the gaol of Newgate, Newcastle, where he had been confined several years, Mr. William Richardson, formerly an eminent corn-merchant in that town. Mr. R. possessed considerable talents, and various were his satiric effusions, the chief of which is "The Newcastle Attorneys," which was privately circulated, and of course has become extremely scarce. His widow placed a very singular epitaph over his remains, in Heworth chapel-yard, which has since been much mutilated.—*Local Rec.*

June 23.—The corporation of Newcastle commenced building twenty additional rooms to the Peace and Unity hospital, at the Westgate, for aged freemen and their widows.—*Local Papers.*

June 26.—Died, at Birtley, Durham, Ralph Goftan, in the 102nd year of his age.—*Ibid.*

June 30.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the carburetted hydrogen gas in the Row pit, at Harraton colliery, on the river Wear, unfortunately ignited, when thirty-eight men and boys lost their lives. It was one of the most violent explosions which had happened for years; corves, trams, and several utensils used at the bottom of the shaft (82 fathoms in depth) being blown into the air, together with the bodies of two of the unfortunate workmen, one with the head off, and the other cut in two in the middle. All the sufferers, except one from Fatfield, belonged to New Painshier, and were buried there on Wednesday, July 2nd. Amongst them were ten belonging to one family, of the name of Hills, viz. the grandfather, his two sons, and seven grandsons. This dreadful accident was caused entirely by the perverse obstinacy of a young man, named John Moody, one of the hewers, who, in defiance of the orders of the overman, refused to

use sir H. Davy's lamp, and lighted a candle, which was twice put out by the workmen whom he was to relieve, but he re-lighted it by unscrewing the lamp, and thus sacrificed his own life, and the lives of his companions. But the painful narrative does not close here: on Wednesday afternoon, some of the workmen went into the Nova Scotia pit, of the same colliery, to repair some part of the shaft which had been injured by the explosion of the Row pit, and not returning in time, another party of men went down to seek them, but were obliged to return without effecting their object, being unable to proceed on account of the great quantity of choke damp which had entered the workings, supposed from the Row pit subsequent to the explosion. The eight workmen who had first gone down were obliged, therefore, to be left to their fate. Their bodies were got out on the following day, six of whom were quite dead; two were still alive, with little hopes of recovery.—*Local Papers*.

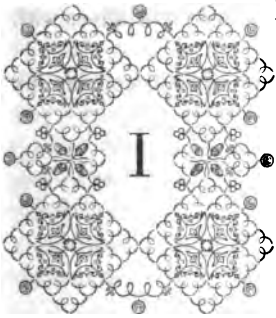
1817 (July 21).—An explosion occurred in Sheriff-hill colliery, by which one life was lost.—*Ibid*.



THE LARGEST GOLD MEDAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

See Page 165.

CHAPTER VIII.



N the month of September, 1817, the foundation stone of a Roman Catholic chapel was laid in Bedford-street, North Shields, adjoining the turnpike road from Tynemouth to Newcastle. June 14th, 1821, this elegant Gothic edifice was opened with great solemnity by the right rev. Thomas Smith, bishop of Bolina, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, assisted by a number of Catholic clergymen. An excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Thomas Gillow, to a crowded audience, who had been admitted by ticket.—*Local Papers.*

July 4.—A blast took place on board the *Fly, Brown*, of Ely, which had just been laden with coals at Mr. Brandling's staith, on the river Tyne. The hatches were fastened down about eight o'clock at night, and about half-past eleven, the master having been writing in his cabin, the inflammable gas from the coal having found its way from the hold, ignited at his candle as he was going to bed, and exploded. The master was seriously scorched; his bed curtains were set on fire; the hatches were burst open, and a boat which was upon them thrown off. Two planks on the deck were blown up. The other men on board were in bed and received no hurt, except the mate who was thrown out of bed, and his toes a little burnt, and his whiskers singed off. The cat also lost her whiskers, and was much singed. These accidents are occasioned by immediately fastening down the hatches upon a cargo of fresh coals, which emit the gas for some time after they are raised from the mine.—*Ibid.*

July 10.—Died, at Northumberland-house, London, the most noble Hugh Percy, duke of Northumberland, unrivalled for goodness of heart, friendship, munificence, and princely protection. For 53 years

he adorned the military profession both at home and abroad ; and as a statesman, tempered the love of his sovereign with the love of the just rights of the people. He was the father of his tenantry, who gratefully perpetuated his memory by a stately column. During the late war, the Percy tenantry volunteer artillery, cavalry, and riflemen, were clothed, paid, and in every respect maintained in arms, at the sole expense of this patriotic nobleman. His grace's titles and offices were, Hugh Percy, duke of Northumberland, Earl Percy, Baron Warkworth, of Warkworth castle, Baron Percy, Lucy, Poynings, Fitzpayne, Bryan, and Latimer, a 'baronet, a general in the army, knight of the garter, lord lieutenant and vice-admiral of Northumberland and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and constable of Launceston castle, F.R.S. and F.S.A. His grace was in the 75th year of his age. The following month, on account of his grace's death, eleven elegant banners, coat of mail, sword and shield, &c., were placed in Alnwick church.—*Local Papers*.

1817(July 14.)—Died, near Wolviston, Durham, Mrs. Mary Stephenson, widow, aged 104 years. Her mother died at the age of 108 ; a sister at 107, another sister at 105, and a brother at the age of 97 years. No other family, perhaps, ever produced so many remarkable instances of longevity.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 18.—Died, in St. Andrew's poor-house, Newcastle, Anne Moulter, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 19.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Thomas Morrison, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

July 21.—At night, a partial explosion took place in Sheriff-hill colliery, by which John Tempest one of the hewers was so dreadfully burnt that he died the following day.—*Blyth Monthly Gleaner*.

July 25.—Died, at Hartley, in her 106th year, Mrs Margaret Lowery, who enjoyed excellent health till within a few hours of her death, with faculties unimpaired. About twenty years before, she was nearly blind, but she recovered her eye-sight, which remained strong and clear to the last.—*Ibid.*

August 14.—Died, at Darlington, Isabella Burnside, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

September 25.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event six men lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

September 28.—Died, at the house of his nephew, captain Cumby, of Heighington, the rev. William Haswell, forty years lecturer of Tynemouth parish, in the 65th year of his age. He was endeared to the inhabitants of North Shields, and its neighbourhood, as a true evangelical preacher ; a man of very superior endowments in the higher species of composition, yet were his discussions suited to the

capacity of every hearer. There was a charm in his eloquence, an earnest forcefulness in his delivery, a distinctness in his enunciation, an awe, commanding solemnity, in his captivating voice, which will long be remembered by his numerous auditory. He possessed a happy facility of adapting his discourse to the feelings of any sudden emergency: and his impressive sermon on the occasion of the memorable storm at sea and lamentable shipwrecks of December 1784, will carry his name to ages yet to come. It was published and afterwards translated into the French language. His remains were interred at Tynemouth priory on the 23rd of September, amidst a concourse of twelve-thousand people; the chief parochial officers and gentlemen of the parish, attended by many neighbouring clergy, and a numerous train of mourning coaches and gentlemen's carriages having gone to the extremity of their boundary, on the Newcastle road to meet the corpse, and pay their last sad respects at his grave. The ships in the harbour lowered their colours in mourning, and the flag on the church tower was also half-mast-high.—*Blyth Gleaner*.

1817 (Oct. 11).—The committee of the coal trade of the rivers Tyne and Wear, and the several subscribers to the superb service of plate, value two thousand pounds, which had been for some time preparing as a tribute of gratitude to sir Humphry Davy, for his invaluable discovery of the safety lamp, with several of their friends, assembled at the Queen's Head inn, to partake of a dinner given to that distinguished philosopher on the presentation of the plate. John George Lambton, esq., M. P., for the county of Durham, in the chair.—*Local Papers*.

October 16.—An immense whale was found at sea by the fishermen of North Sunderland, which, after great exertion, they succeeded in towing on shore at the pier of that place, where it lay for some time, during which crowds of people viewed this stranger.—*Blyth Gleaner*.

October 19.—In the evening a desperate attempt was made to escape from the gaol of Newcastle by Henry Scope, a convict under sentence of death, for house breaking, but whose sentence was changed to transportation: as Mr. Gee the gaoler entered the place of confinement, to examine it, along with the turnkey, he threw a tub-full of ashes at his head, with a view of blinding him, and then struck at him with a stick; in the scuffle, a dog belonging to the turnkey fastened on the arm of Mr. Gee, through mistake, and bit it so severely that amputation became necessary; Scope was at length with difficulty secured, and chained to the floor; the other prisoners in the same room did not join in the attempt.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

October 21.—The mayor, the sheriff and stewards of the incorporated companies rode the boundaries of the corporation of Newcastle.

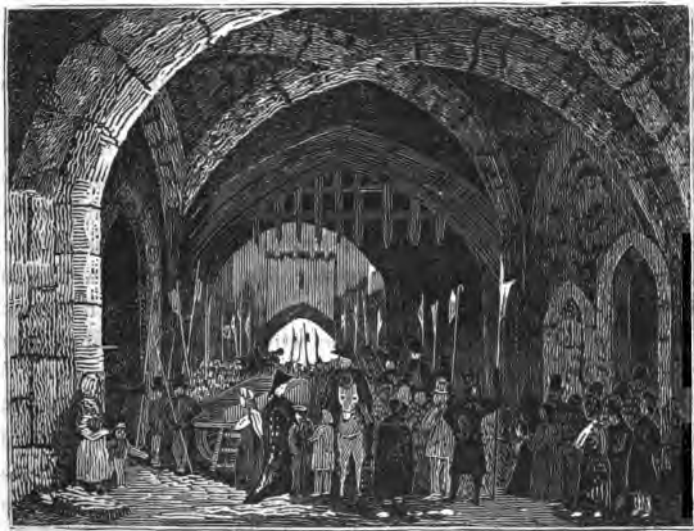
When near Kenton, a melancholy accident occurred; a boy was thrown down by one of the horses and so severely hurt by the hind feet of another horse following close upon it, that he died soon after.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

1817 (Nov. 3).—An explosion took place in Ouston colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which a man named John Turnbull lost his life, and three others were severely burnt.—*Local Papers*.

November 7.—At midnight an uninhabited house in Sandgate near the Folly, belonging to Mr. Cathey, tallow chandler, was discovered to be on fire, supposed to have been caused by some incendiary. The engines were soon brought, and by the prompt exertions of the firemen, the adjoining premises were preserved. The damage consisted in the internal part of the building being all consumed, with a considerable quantity of rags and old rope which were deposited there.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

November 8.—On the receipt of the intelligence in Newcastle, of the death of the princess Charlotte (Nov. 6.), the great bell of St. Nicholas, and the bells of all the other churches tolled heavily for an hour, and the flag of the castle was displayed half staff high; many of the ships in the harbour made a similar mournful display. At Durham, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a mournful peal, and the great bell of the cathedral was also tolled for a considerable time. At North and South Shields the bells of the churches rung muffled peals, and the ships displayed their mourning. The flags on Olifford's fort and Tynemouth castle, were also hoisted in mourning. November 19th being the day when the mortal remains of this most beloved princess were to be consigned to the cold and silent tomb, it was observed in Newcastle with every mark of solemnity and sorrow. At sun rise, on the signal of a gun from the castle, a muffled peal was slowly rung on the bells of St. Nicholas, and the other churches, and the flags of the castle and the ships in the harbour were hoisted half mast high. All the shops were closed, and business of every kind suspended. Divine service was performed at the several churches in the morning, and was most numerous attended. The mayor and corporation passed in slow procession to St. Nicholas' church, where also the several lodges of free masons in that town and Gateshead assembled, properly attired in black, with hatbands and white gloves, to join in the mournful service of the day; the church was exceedingly crowded. The pulpit, reading desks, &c., were all hung with black cloth. After service, the church bells tolled heavily for a considerable time, and at sun-set, another mournful peal closed the observances of the day. At Gateshead church, there was also service in the evening, when an affecting sermon was preached by the rev. Christopher

Benson, of Newcastle. This mournful event was similarly observed at all the other towns.—*Local Papers*.



GROINED ARCHWAY OF NEWGATE.
With Preparations for Execution, looking North (1817).

1817 (Dec. 3).—The awful sentence of the law was carried into execution against Charles Smith, for the wilful murder of Charles Stuart. About ten o'clock the procession moved from Newgate to the gallows, which was erected on the town-moor, Newcastle, a little north of the barracks, on the opposite side of the road. When arrived at the gallows, he, in a firm and impressive manner, addressed the spectators at some length, denying his having shed the blood of Stuart, and stating that he forgave all who had appeared against him. After joining in prayer with the Roman Catholic clergyman (rev. Mr. Worwick), he was launched into eternity. His body was afterwards taken to the surgeons' hall for dissection. He had been respited from the 18th of August.—*Ibid*.

December.—Died, at Matfen, Northumberland, John Armstrong, gamekeeper to sir Edward Blackett, bart. He completed his 100th year in August last, on which occasion he was regaled, by his own desire, with roast beef and bottled ale. He retained all his faculties to the last; and his eye-sight was so good that during his last summer he could read a chapter in the bible without spectacles.—*Gent's Mag*.

December 14.—Died, at Hexham, Margaret Davison, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

December 18.—An explosion took place in the Plain pit, at Rain-

ton colliery, when twenty-seven persons (eleven men and sixteen boys) lost their lives; the accident took place before all the workmen had descended to their work; had it occurred a little time later, there would have been upwards of one hundred and sixty men and boys in the pit, most of whom, it is probable would have perished.—*Local Papers*.

1817 (Dec.).—A seal weighing four stones, was shot at Bywell, about twenty-five miles from the mouth of the Tyne, and ten above the run of the tide.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

This year, Mr. Grey of Millfield hill, found near the traces of an ancient encampment, a short distance from Flodden hill, a tumulus, which, on removal, exhibited a very singular sepulchre. In the centre of which a large urn was found, but in many pieces. It had either been broken by the stones falling upon it when digging, or had crumbled on the admission of air. This urn was surrounded by a number of cells formed of flat stones in the shape of graves, but too small to hold the body in its natural state. These sepulchral recesses contained nothing except ashes, or dust of the same kind as that in the urn.—*Hist. of Northd.*

The dispensary in Oldgate, Morpeth, was established in 1817. This useful institution is supported by subscription.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

This year, Gilesgate moor, Durham (270 acres) was divided. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, had one sixteenth allotted as lord and lady of the manor, and reserved the mines.—*Surtees*.

This year, died at Rushyford, Durham, Mrs. Mary Young, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

A barrow upon an eminence, which served as a place of execution for the castle of Bamborough in feudal times, was partly opened in this year, and was found to contain numerous graves belonging to the British, or unconverted Saxon period. In some instances the skeletons were stretched at length, in graves made of thin stones; and in others the bodies had been reduced to ashes by fire, and the ashes themselves had been collected in rudely ornamented and sun-baked urns, which were found inverted in small square cavities of six stones each, just large enough to contain them.—*Raine's No. Dur.*

Presbyterian chapel, Wallsend founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1817 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Bethel chapel (Independent), Villiers-street, Bishopwearmouth, was founded. The register of baptisms, 233 entries, extends from 1811 to 1836; and that of burials, 156 entries, from 1826 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

New court chapel (Baptist), Westgate-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne founded. The register of births, 99 entries, extending from 1817 to 1836.—*Ibid.*

1818 (Jan. 10).—A savings' bank was opened at Newcastle, and upwards of £300 paid in by between sixty and seventy depositors.—*Local Papers*.

In the evening of the same day, a partial lighting of the gas lights took place in such of the shops in Newcastle as had completed their arrangements. The lamps in Moseley-street were not lighted till the 13th (Tuesday evening), when a great crowd witnessed their first lighting up.—*Local Rec.*

January 12.—A numerous and most respectable party of gentlemen dined together at the Assembly rooms, in Newcastle, (Charles John Brandling, esq., of Gosforth, in the chair), on the occasion of presenting a piece of plate (a tankard of large dimensions) to Mr. George Stephenson, for the services rendered to science and humanity by the invention of his safety lamp. This, added to a former donation of the coal trade at large, amounted to nearly £1,000.—*Ibid.*

February 8.—Died, in the workhouse at Bishop Auckland, Hannah Robinson, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 12.—Died, at Haggerstone, in Northumberland, Thomas Ewart, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

February 14.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Usher, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

February 15.—The chapel of St. Andrew, at North Shields, was first opened for service, by the rev. John Wilson, A. M., after the solemn Presbyterian form of Scotland. The foundation stone of this chapel was laid in June 1817. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1817 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

February 18.—Died, at North Shields, Jane Macdonald, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 21.—Died, in Sunderland Old Road, in the chapelry of Heworth, at three o'clock in the morning, Hannah Bell, aged 100 years, and at nine the same morning, James Bell, her husband aged 103 years. He had been indisposed for some time; and a few days previous to his dissolution, his wife observed to him, that he would not live long, but that she would go before him, which she did as above stated; without any previous illness she complained of being sick, and expired. Their youngest daughter, aged 68, attended them during their last moments.—*Ibid.*

March 10.—The workmen in digging for the foundations of a semi-circular addition to the north side of Bedlington church, discovered three grave-stones, with crosses and swords, in the style of the 11th or 12th centuries, and one of them with "Ora pro nobis" upon it. In pulling down the north wall, there was also found, the fragment of a pillar 14 inches high, of the form of an irregular octagon, measuring



eight inches by five at the top, and having its two narrowest sides ploughed perpendicularly with two flutings. Three of the other sides bear a fragment of an inscription; "CRUX OR LVX VNDIQUE FVLGET AMATA" and the other three are decorated with a griffin, and fret work in relief, as here represented. Besides the above there were found the remains of a man, supposed to be those of Cuthbert Watson, a noted sleep-walker, who was killed upon the spot where they were found. He had risen in his sleep, Feb. 14, 1669, and was in the act of climbing the north buttress of the tower with great ease and firmness; but a person passing by at the time, and dreading the danger of his situation, spoke to him, and he awoke, fell, and was instantly killed. This story is supported by the current tradition of the place, by an entry said to be in the parish register, and by the above date, and the words "WATSON'S WAKE" cut upon the buttress.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1818 (March 24).—Died, in the Keelmen's hospital, Newcastle, Ann Hamilton, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

Same day, a large floating dock, belonging to Mr. Farrington, ship builder, was launched from his yard at Sandgate shore, Newcastle, in the presence of many hundreds of spectators.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—A grand masonic procession took place from Mr. Smith's the Anchor inn, at Wooler, which was met by a deputation of the trustees, elders, and others of the congregation of Protestant Dissenters of the West chapel, the rev. Mr. Mitchell, minister, and proceeded to the site fixed upon for a new meeting-house, where the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Richard Jobson. Under the stone were deposited in a sealed bottle, various coins of George III., and a roll of parchment containing a list of the presiding officers of the society and the lodges, after which, an appropriate oration was delivered by brother Joseph Armstrong.—*Ibid.*

April 2.—Early on the morning an alarming fire broke out in the

yard of the Fighting Cocks public-house in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, the property of Mr. George Lister. How the fire originated, could not be ascertained. It was a most fortunate circumstance that the wind was low, or from the near vicinity of Messrs. Angas's coach manufactory, the most alarming results might have been anticipated. —*Blyth Mon. Gleaner.*



ENTRANCE TO FIGHTING COCKS' YARD.

1818 (April 15).—At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Humane society, holden at the London tavern, his royal highness the duke of Sussex, president of the society, delivered the honorary medallion to John Davison, esq., of Bishopwearmouth, for his invention of the improved Sunderland life-boat. His royal highness in addressing Mr. Davison, observed the society had been highly pleased with the life-boat, the principle of which his royal highness explained to the party assembled. He also stated that the society was much gratified by Mr. D's being present to receive the medal in person, and he further observed as one of the royal family, they were deeply interested in every invention that tended to preserve the lives of his majesty's subjects, and condescendingly added, in presenting the medal to Mr. Davison, that he had well deserved it.—*Mon. Mag.*

May 2.—A fire broke out in the Hartford, London trader, captain James Otway, belonging to Mr. Robson, wharfinger, of Newcastle. She was lying near the cinder kilns, on the south side of the Tyne; and about one o'clock on the morning, the alarm of fire was given by the mate and his wife, who, with a boy, were the only persons on

board. Two engines from neighbouring glass-houses were not long in arriving at the place, and about four o'clock, one of the engines from the Newcastle fire office, proceeded down the river in a wherry. Every exertion was made to prevent the progress of the fire. The vessel was scuttled, but being in shallow water, she of course sunk very little. At one time the flames issued through the sky-light, set fire to the trysail, and would certainly have destroyed all the rigging, had not a man instantly cut away the lanyards on one side of the vessel, which caused the mainmast to fall overboard. Notwithstanding these efforts, the fire continued to rage in the cabin, (where it originated) and the after part of the hold till six o'clock, and consequently did considerable damage to the vessel, as well as destroying every thing on board belonging to the captain and the crew; fortunately no goods were on board. A new cable was found lying coiled, apparently as perfect as when first laid into the vessel, but upon being touched, fell into dust. William Lamb, who was employed at the Tyne Glass house, unfortunately fell down the hatchway; it was not long before he was brought up with a hook, but life had fled; he left a widow and five children, for whom a subscription was set on foot.—*Local Papers*.

1818 (May 8).—A violent thunder-storm was experienced in various parts of Northumberland. At Hardriding, the electric fluid descended a chimney, when a young woman, sitting by the fire, was struck senseless, a dog was killed, and the house was much damaged.—*Gent's. Mag.*

May 11.—Died, in Northumberland-square, North Shields, Mr. Robert Wilkinson, librarian to the Public Subscription Library, Howard-street, aged 48 years. He was well skilled in the mathematics, as many of his productions in the Diaries and other publications, will testify. His calculations, often made without putting pen to paper, were very astonishing. He was also a poet of no mean celebrity. In short, in him were combined some of the rarest qualities of the human mind. Mr. Wilkinson was a native of Northumberland.—*Local Papers*.

May 30.—Died, at his house in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, London, in the 54th year of his age, William Burdon, esq., of Hartford-house, in Northumberland, a gentleman of great literary attainments. Mr. Burdon was a native of Newcastle, and educated at the Free Grammar-school there, from whence he was sent to Emanuel college, Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship. Mr. Burdon was designed for the church, but on reading the early history of Christianity, he came to the conclusion of not entering into priest's orders, and he resigned his fellowship in 1796. After his retirement from

the university, a number of curious and valuable works proceeded from his fertile pen. His publications were—"Three Letters addressed to the Bishop of Llandaff. Cambridge, 1795," "Life and Character of Buonaparte," "Examination of the Pursuits of Literature," "Materials for Thinking" 2 vols. 8vo., "Letters on the Affairs of Spain," "Thoughts on Politics, Morality, and Literature," "A Vindication of Pope and Grattan," "Treatise on the Privileges of the House of Commons," and several miscellaneous essays and papers in the periodical publications of the day. For some years, a small swelling had affected his thigh; this increasing, and occasioning an intense and unremitting pain, he removed to London in 1817, for the purpose of an operation; the consequence was, that the thigh was amputated close to the trunk of the body. In two months he was able to take an airing in his carriage, although he was never free from pain. About the middle of May he gradually relapsed, and found great difficulty in breathing, attended with spasms, and expired as above stated.—*Local Rec.*

1818 (June 2).—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal and ten guineas to Mr. John Common, of Denwick, near Alnwick, for his invention of a double-drill turnip sower. He was also presented with thirty guineas from the Highland society for this invention. The following curious account of Mr. Common's family, who have been remarkable for stature, strength, longevity, and cleverness, may be interesting. His great-grandfather, Thomas, lived until he was above 110 years of age. Some time before his death, which happened at Dunsheugh, he got a new set of teeth. He left seven sons: one of them, named Andrew, measured twenty-seven inches across the shoulders; and frequently went to Alnwick market from Thrunton, with a stick over his shoulder, to which a boll of peas was suspended. Robert, another son, seized two men who were assaulting his master at Warkworth Barns, and, carrying one of them under each arm, ran and threw them both into the Coquet. Being present when a party of men were trying their strength by throwing an axe toward a house at High Buston, he joined in the sport; but instead of throwing it *toward* the house he threw it over it. There was another son, named Matthew, possessed of uncommon strength. At one time he leaped forwards and backwards over a yoke of oxen in Alnwick streets. Thomas, the youngest, Mr. Common's grandfather, was the least, yet he weighed fourteen stones. He had two sons, Thomas, and Robert, Mr. Common's father. They were both ingenious mechanics and noted pugilists. Thomas excelled in the erection of wind-mills and steam-engines; and Robert, in making winnowing machines on an economical plan. He made some improve-

ments in the construction of ploughs, and invented the bonnet maker's mangle. He also performed well on the bagpipes and violin, both of which instruments he made himself. When a boy, he was severely corrected by his father, for standing upon his head on the steeple of Shilbottle church. His eldest son, Thomas, was an eminent millwright at Quebec. William, another son, carried on the same business in Buston, his native place. He possessed a portion of the nerve and agility of his forefathers, as he could leap through a hoop, two feet in diameter, while a tall man held it above his head. His brother, John Common, (from whom these particulars were obtained,) when a youth, stood upon his head on the highest tower of Warkworth castle. He performed the same feat on the edge of the grate of Brislee tower, and on the stern piece of a boat while agitated on the water. He has also laid his hands on a board the height of his chin, sprung up, and rested upon his head. He has likewise walked upon his elbows on level ground, and upon his hands on the battlement of Warkworth bridge, and the highest part of Eshott-hall! About the time that king James I. mounted the English throne, one of this wonderful family farmed the Freestone-Barn, near Whittingham, and tradition records how boldly he fought with a party of moss-troopers who had stolen his cattle. John, the brother of Mr. Common's great-grandfather before mentioned, lived until he was 115 years old; and Peter, another brother, until he exceeded his 132nd year. He died at Rugby, about ninety years ago. This patriarch was casting flags on Hazon moor, when a Mr. Lisle rode up, and demanded to know by whose authority he worked there? "I have cast flags here by times," said Peter, "above a hundred years, and no man ever asked me the question before." "Cast on while you live," replied the gentleman, throwing him half-a-crown; "I will never forbid you."—John while serving at Titlington, was seized by a party of soldiers, whom his master, in a joke, had sent to take him; but he defended himself so resolutely with the spade, that the poor fellows were glad to effect their escape. His eye-sight remained unimpaired to the last; so that a few days before he died, while lying in bed, he could read a printed paper that was pasted up at some distance upon the wall of his room. He was buried at Warkworth.—*Local Rec.*

1818 (July 19).—Sunday in the afternoon a tremendous fall of rain called by the country people a water-spout, fell upon Davy-Shield common, and caused the rivulet which passes Otterburn, to overflow its banks, carrying away potatoes, corn, &c. The rise was so rapid, that most of the inhabitants of the village of Otterburn were compelled to quit their houses for safety: the women and children were carried off upon the men's shoulders. In a few minutes all was confusion and desola-

tion. Mr. Anderson of the Inn suffered greatly: his lower apartments were inundated to a considerable height, the ale and the spirits were all set afloat, and his garden and pasture completely spoiled for the season. The stream entered the shop of Mr. A. Thompson, grocer, and was in a little time eight inches above the counter. The master of the shop undoubtedly would have perished in the flood, had not his very long coat, which he was in the habit of wearing, kept him buoyant until rescued by some of his neighbours from his perilous situation. Scarcely an inhabitant of the village, west of the bridge, but has been a sufferer more or less. This scene was truly awful—swine, hay, dunghills covered with poultry, and various utensils of husbandry were all driven off by the flood. Fortunately, however, the river Reed was not much swollen at the time the burn was at its greatest height, otherwise it is conjectured the greater part of the town would have been swept away.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

1818 (July 22).—On the morning, Edward, son of Mr. Beckinton, of the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, was unfortunately drowned while bathing in the burn at Temple Vale. In attempting to swim, he got out of his depth; after coming up the second time, he called out to his brothers, and they immediately gave the alarm to five men working about thirty yards distant, but they inhumanly disregarded them.—*Ibid*.

July 28.—A new burial-ground which had been added to the churchyard at Sunderland, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford.—*Local Papers*.

July 28.—Died, at the pin-manufactory, Durham, Mrs. Catherine Richardby, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

July 30.—The additional cemetery adjoining St. Andrew's churchyard, in Newcastle, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford, amidst an immense concourse of spectators.—*Ibid*.

July 30.—His imperial highness the grand duke Michael, brother to the emperor of Russia, accompanied by his suite, arrived at the Bridge inn, Sunderland. They were soon after waited upon by the Rev. Dr. Gray, whom they accompanied to the rectory, where they took refreshment. They afterwards inspected the iron bridge, patent ropery, barracks, exchange, &c., and took an excursion up the river Wear in a boat. During the time of the grand duke's visit at Sunderland, a guard of honour was placed at his door. Next morning, his imperial highness and suite left Sunderland for Newcastle. They soon after paid a visit to the Royal Jubilee school, where they were received by the committee and the master,—the boys, who had broken up for the harvest holidays the day before, having been expressly assembled. After staying here a short while, the party paid a visit to

the low glass-houses and Heaton colliery. Next morning they left Newcastle for Alnwick castle, where they were engaged to dine with the duke of Northumberland. On their arrival, his highness was received on the steps of the principal entrance by their graces the duke and duchess of Northumberland, and immediately upon his alighting, the band struck up "God save the King," and a salute of 21 guns was fired.—*Local Rec.*

1818 (July).—A large painting (seventeen by seven feet), by Tintoretto, of our Saviour washing the apostles' feet, presented to St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, by Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., was placed at his expense above the altar-table, the church having undergone a thorough repair and cleaning.—*Local Papers.*

August.—M. Cottu, the French judge who tried sir Robert Wilson, and Messrs. Bruce and Hutchinson, for aiding the escape of Lavalette, attended on the northern circuit, being sent by the French government to observe and report the British mode of administering justice, particularly as regarded the rules of evidence and reception of proofs. The French judge appeared to be very attentive to the proceedings.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a piece of ground which was added to the cemetery of Berwick church.—*Ibid.*

August 4.—The mayor and corporation of Newcastle, attended by the proper officers, waited upon the duke of Northumberland (whilst on a visit to Newcastle), and presented to him the freedom of that town, which they had previously voted to him. After the presentation of the freedom, the bells of St. Nicholas' church struck up a merry peal, and a salute was fired from the guns on the castle.—*Ibid.*

August 5.—An explosion of inflammable air took place in Wall's End colliery, by which four men lost their lives. This is the only explosion that has been known to have happened at the Davy lamp. It occurred as follows:—Two men and two boys were working in an explosive mixture. One of the men extinguished his *Davy* in trimming it, and sent one of the boys to the "stationary" light, in a safe part of the mine, to get it re-lighted. The boy returning with it in haste, fell when near to the man to whom he was carrying it, and falling with the lamp upon the corner of a cast-iron tram-plate, burst a hole in the wire gauze cylinder of the lamp, and the explosion instantly took place. The man survived a few hours, and told Mr Buddle the circumstance, who took up the Davy on the spot where the boy was killed, and found it in the state described.—*Ibid.*

August 8, 9, 10.—The lord bishop of Oxford, as the representative of the late venerable prelate (Barrington) of the diocese, consecrated the three new churches and cemeteries for the new parishes of Thor-



WARK CHURCH.

neyburn, Greystead, and Wark, which had been erected within the extensive parish and rectory of Simonburn, in Northumberland, which became, on the death of the rev. Dr. Scott, the former incumbent, separated into six distinct rectories and parishes, viz.—Simonburn, Wark, Bellingham, Thorneyburn, Falstone, and Greystead. On the 11th, his lordship also consecrated the new chapel and cemetery at Humshaugh, as a chapel of ease and additional cemetery to the parish of Simonburn. The above new churches and chapel were built by the commissioners and governors of Greenwich hospital, who are the patrons of Simonburn, and of the several above new rectories and parishes. After the conclusion of the consecration of Thorneyburn church and cemetery, his lordship proceeded to Falstone, where he consecrated the ground for the additional cemetery to Falstone church-yard.—*Local Papers.*

1818 (Aug. 15).—Died, at Durham, aged 82, Mr. A. Featonby. This person, who lived during the greater part of his life in a state of abject penury, is said to have died worth £20,000. He had not unfrequently accepted employment on the turnpike roads in the breaking of stones, &c.; and the coat which he wore up to the time of his death was so patched, that scarcely a particle of the cloth of which it was originally composed, could be discovered amongst the “shreds and patches” which it exhibited.—*Mon. Mag.*

September 24.—About four o'clock in the afternoon, an alarming fire broke out in Hexham abbey, the seat of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M.P. for Northumberland. The building was in the form of a quadrangle, the whole of the south and west sides of which, and part also of the north side, were entirely consumed. About seven o'clock, the roofs fell in with a tremendous crash. About eight o'clock, an express arrived in Newcastle, requesting the assistance of the engines

belonging to the Newcastle fire-office, which were consequently dispatched with the greatest expedition. The engines arrived at Hexham between one and two o'clock, when the ruins were still in flames, but a plentiful supply of water being at hand, the engines were immediately set to work, and soon succeeded in extinguishing them. The damage was said to be about £10,000. There was little wind at the time, and it fortunately was from the south-east, to which providential circumstance was attributed the preservation of the venerable church, which is close adjoining the east side of the abbey.—*Local Papers*.

1818 (Oct. 11).—As Joseph Madelen, a miner, employed in South Moor colliery, in the county of Durham, was hewing at a solid stratum of coal, about six feet in thickness, and thirteen fathoms from the surface of the earth, he found a frog enclosed in the solid mass, which, immediately on being liberated, began to exercise the functions of animal life. The recess in the coal in which it was found, was exactly fitted to its body, and had apparently no communication whatever with the surface of the block. The animal was exactly the colour of the coal, but on being put into a vessel of water, its sooty covering disappeared, and it appeared speckled like the rest of its species.—*Ibid*.

October 30.—The workmen of Collingwood Main colliery, in cutting through part of the lands at Chirton, near North Shields, for a water level, came to the remains of a human body, enclosed in flagstones set upon their edges, about four feet below the surface, and covered over by others of a similar description. Only a skull and two or three mutilated bones were found, which, on being exposed to the air, crumbled into dust; the bottom of the enclosure contained nothing else, except some white sand.—*Ibid*.

This month, died at Hatherwick, in Northumberland, Mrs. Potts, in the 104th year of her age.—*Ibid*.

November 3.—His imperial highness the archduke Maximilian, cousin to the emperor of Russia, with his suite, on their tour to the north, honoured North Shields and Tynemouth with their presence. Accompanied by Nicholas Fairless, esq., and other gentlemen, he visited the ancient priory and fortifications of Tynemouth, the North Shields subscription library, and the various manufactories, and expressed himself highly gratified, particularly with Mr. Flinn's improved harpoon guns, whale lances, and other instruments used in the Greenland fishery. The same evening his imperial highness and suite arrived at the Queen's head inn, Newcastle, and on the following day visited several of the collieries on the north side of the Tyne, below the bridge, attended by William Clark, esq., of Benton, and captain

Morgan. They also examined St. Nicholas' church, and other objects of curiosity in that town. On the 5th, they left Newcastle for Alnwick castle, on their way to Scotland.—*Local Papers.*

1818 (Nov. 10).—On the morning, John and Lancelot Younghusband, brothers, and very respectable farmers at Heckley Grange, near Alnwick, the one about 70 years of age and the other 60, left their house between the hours of nine and ten o'clock; when one of them went to give instructions to a boy ploughing in the field, the other brother approached, and asked, "Are you ready?" Being answered in the affirmative, they left the field together. Their long absence from home created alarm, and servants were sent to search for them, when they were discovered within a few yards of each other, each having his throat cut, and a razor near his body. A watch was also found beside one of them, from which it was inferred that they had resolved to die at the same moment. A jury held an inquest, and after several adjournments, returned a verdict of *Felo de se*. The farming stock and utensils were then valued, and the bodies were buried at midnight, in cross roads near the church. This not being considered a sufficient compliance with the terms of the statute, an order was given by the magistrates to the churchwardens, that the sentence of the law should be carried strictly into execution. The bodies were accordingly taken up, and buried again, amidst a great concourse of people, in a highway near Hinding-lane, not far from the spot where they committed the fatal act.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—A numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Bishopwearmouth and Sunderland, and their vicinities, was holden at the Exchange Buildings, Sunderland, (the rev. Dr. Gray in the chair) to consider the expediency of establishing an infirmary at Sunderland. January 10th, 1822, the foundation stone was laid by the right honourable lord Stewart, now marquis of Londonderry.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, in his 45th year, George Wilson Meadley, esq. Mr. Meadley wrote "Memoirs of Dr. Paley," 8vo.; he was also the author of "Memoirs of Algernon Sydney," 8vo. &c. &c. His remains were followed to the grave by the president of the Sunderland library (of which he was one of the founders), and a very large party of the subscribers and other gentlemen.—*Ibid.*

November.—Died, at Monckton, in the county of Durham, Elizabeth Clarke, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

This month, the entire skeleton of a woman was found in a bog, which was draining, on a farm in the parish of Monk Hesledon, near Castle Eden. The brain was in a considerable state of preservation.

The skeleton was much bent in the middle, as if thrust by force into the bog. No appearance of clothes remained.—*Surtees*.

1818 (Dec. 2).—Being the day appointed for the funeral of her majesty, Queen Charlotte, was observed in Newcastle with every mark of mourning and respect. All business was suspended, the shops being universally shut. The flag of the castle was hoisted half staff high, and the flags of all the ships in the river were displayed half mast high. Slow muffled peals were rung upon the bells of the several churches, at different times during the day, and the great bell of St. Nicholas tolled very slowly from one till two o'clock. At sunset, minutes guns were fired from the guns on the castle for the space of one hour, each gun being followed by a solemn toll of the bell of St. Nicholas. The usual service was performed in the churches on the morning. Her majesty died November 17th, at Kew palace, in the 75th year of her age.—*Local Papers*.

This year, Brancepath castle, in the county of Durham, was restored by its proprietor, Matthew Russell, esq. to its ancient extent and magnificence, under the able direction of Mr. John Patterson, of Edinburgh, and a new tower was added to the castle: the towers now are—the Constable's, the Essex, the Russell (new from the foundation), the Nevill, Bulmer, and St. Brandon; and this noble castle now combines the massy grandeur of the feudal baron, with the splendour and luxury of modern refinement. In repairing the ceiling of the present drawing-room, a groined roof was exposed to view, of singular beauty. The groining was covered with the inscription "*mais droyte*," and the interstices were abundantly charged with the armorial ensigns of the order of the Garter, with faint traces of the motto; and also the "Nevill cross," encircled with a garter, but without any inscription.—*Sharp's Memorials of the Rebellion*.

1819 (Jan. 10).—Died, at Throckley, in Northumberland, Mr. Alder Penman, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 7.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, in Newcastle, Margaret Purvis, in her 100th year. She was the mother of the famous musician, William Purvis, better known by the name of *Blind Willie*,—*Ibid*.

February 12.—Died, at Hawkhill, Northumberland, David Watson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

February 15.—Died, at Longhorsley, Northumberland, Mrs. Mary White, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

February 28.—Died, at Lumley, near Chester-le-street, Eleanor Turner, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

March 22.—Jonathan Raine, esq., arrived in the city of Durham, and opened his commission for holding a general gaol delivery in the

four northern counties. March 27th, he arrived in Newcastle, and opened his commission in the town and county courts. These were the first spring assizes held north of York.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (April 12).—Joseph Atcheson, aged 67, was executed in front of the new county courts at Durham, for a rape on the body of Isabella Ramshaw, a child under ten years of age. From the time of his condemnation to the period of his execution, he was very penitent, and often expressed a hope that his untimely end might be a warning to others, and deter them from the commission of such a crime as an ignorant course of life had led him to.—*Ibid*.

April 14.—The execution of Joseph Charlton, aged 24 years, for an unnatural crime, took place at Morpeth. He was conducted from the gaol to the place of execution in a chaise, when he ascended the platform with great firmness, but very penitent, and after spending some minutes in prayer, he was launched into eternity. After his body had hung the usual time, it was cut down and delivered to his friends. On the arrival of the hearse with the body at Earsdon, four miles from Tynemouth, it was met by near 1,000 people, and by the time of its arrival at Tynemouth priory, the concourse had increased to upwards of 2,000, yet great order was preserved. It was half-past eight o'clock at night when the procession reached the grave, in which it was deposited, with decent solemnity, by candle light.—*Ibid*.

April 15.—An elegant masked ball and supper took place at the assembly rooms, in Newcastle. From the preparations made by the committee, the entertainment was supposed never to have been surpassed in any provincial town. The costumes were superb, and the characters were supported with great judgement and spirit.—*Ibid*.

April 17.—Several of the Hartlepool fishing cobsles were overtaken when at sea, by a violent gale which blew from the E. S. E. and it was with the greatest difficulty they succeeded in ultimately reaching the shore, after many of them had been several times filled with water by the heavy seas which broke over them. On the first discovery of the alarming situation of the cobsles, the life-boat was launched with the most praiseworthy alacrity, and immediately proceeded to their assistance. Her approach gave fresh energy to the fishermen, who now redoubled their exertions, and most of them regained the shore without her aid: but one coble, in which were three very young men (Michael and Richard Coulson, and John Shepherd) was left at a considerable distance, and the weather being thick, and the approach to the harbour dangerous, they considered their fate inevitable; they were, however, fortunately discovered by the crew of the life-boat, and rescued from their perilous situation. Another coble containing three young men (Robert and William Pounder, and James Harrison) was

upset, the boat sunk, and the crew supported themselves in the water, by clinging to the loose mast, till another coble came to their assistance, when, by the active and praiseworthy exertions of Joshua Hastings, a powerful and clever seaman, they were taken on board his coble, and brought safe to land. On the Sunday following, the fishermen, with nearly the whole of their families and relatives, attended divine service at Hartlepool church, and offered up public thanks to the Almighty for their unexpected preservation.—*Gent's. Mag.*



TOWER OF HARTLEPOOL CHURCH (1816).

1819 (April 24).—Died, at his house, at Chimney-mills, on the Leazes, near Newcastle, Mr. John Mitchell, editor and printer of the *Tyne Mercury*, aged 47 years. April 27th, his remains were interred at the foot of the garden of his residence. The procession was conducted in the usual manner, and a numerous assemblage of friends attended the body to the grave. The funeral service was read in a most impressive manner, from the reformed liturgy of Dr. Lindsey, by the rev. William Turner, of Hanover-square chapel, who also delivered an address suited to the occasion.—*Local Papers.*

April 27.—The foundation stone of a bridge over the river Wear, near Lambton-hall, built by J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P. (late lord Durham), was laid on the south side of the river. It was completed

September 27th the same year. The bridge, a simple elegant design by Bonomi, consists of a single arch, of which the span is eighty-two feet six inches.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (May 25).—Died, at Nesham, near Darlington, Frances Water, a pauper, in her 101st year.—*Ibid*.

May 29.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Elizabeth Grey, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

June 4.—Died, John Bailey, esq., of Chillingham, Northumberland, aged 68 years. He was the son of Mr. William Bailey, of Blades Field, near Bowes, in the county of York. Mr. Bailey shewed a taste for drawing very early in life, and was patronized and assisted in his pursuits, both in drawing and in mathematical studies by the late George Dixon, of Cockfield, who was his uncle by marriage. He was employed when a young man by Mr. Dixon as tutor to his children, during which time he employed himself in his leisure hours in drawing and engraving many pieces which bear his name. He never followed engraving as a sole occupation. Mr. Dixon was a very ingenious man—a good mathematician, a mineralogist, a painter, an engraver, a great experimentalist in chemistry, hydraulics, and pneumatics, and also an excellent land-surveyor, and most beautiful planner. No doubt Mr. Bailey profitted largely in his scientific knowledge by living under the roof of his relation. Mr. Bailey, after attending to the education of his cousins, practiced land-surveying, and for a short time was mathematical teacher under the rev. John Farrer, at Witton-le-Wear. He there married the daughter of Nicholas Greenwell, esq. and shortly afterwards became lord Tankerville's land-agent at Chillingham, which he continued to the time of his death. He at the same time did a great deal of business as a general land agent and surveyor, and few men have greater claims to the gratitude of posterity for the many lasting improvements in rural economy planned and executed by him. Mr. Bailey engraved several of the plates of Hutchinson's topographical works; he was also the author of an "Essay on the Construction of the Plough," 8vo., and joint writer with Mr. Culley of the Northumberland Report, drawn up for the Board of Agriculture.—*Local Rec*.

June 7.—A very melancholy accident, from the careless handling of fire-arms, occurred at Fulwell, near Sunderland—Mr. Gregson, and Mr. Masterman, of Monkwearmouth, with two of Mr. Gregson's sons, were in a garden at Fulwell, Mr. Gregson having a double barrellled gun with him. One of the barrels had a few minutes before been fired off, and he was ignorant of the other being loaded. The boys were playing amongst the gooseberry bushes, and Mr. Masterman jocularly threatened to shoot them if they did not behave. Mr.

Gregson gave Mr. Masterman hold of the gun, when dreadful to relate, it went off, and shot one of Mr. Gregson's sons, aged, 8 years, dead upon the spot ! an inquest was holden on Tuesday by John Stobart, esq., coroner, and after a most attentive and patient investigation the jury returned a verdict of *accidental death*.—*Blyth Mon. Gleaner*.

1819 (June 7).—Died, at Allenheads, Northumberland, Mr. Peter Green, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

June.—This month, as the sexton was digging a grave in the burial ground within Tynemouth castle, his spade struck against a stone coffin, which, on being examined, was found to contain a perfect skeleton, the bones of which were covered with leather, curiously cut and ornamented. On looking further, another coffin of the same description was found, which also contained a skeleton, but without the head. The bones of this latter were defended and adorned with leather in the same manner as the other. The leather was sewed tight round the bones, and it was therefore evident that the bodies had been anatomised before interment.—*Ibid*.

July 18.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, widow, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

July 19.—A terrible accident occurred at Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead. After the hewers had left work, an explosion of fire-damp took place, which unfortunately proved fatal to two men and thirty-three boys who happened to be in that part of the mine. This event occurred only half-an-hour before the pit was to have finished its day's work, otherwise the loss would, in all probability, have been more extensive. Upwards of twenty men and boys were in other parts of the mine when the accident happened ; but fortunately escaped, a few only being slightly injured by the concussion and after-damp.—*Ibid*.

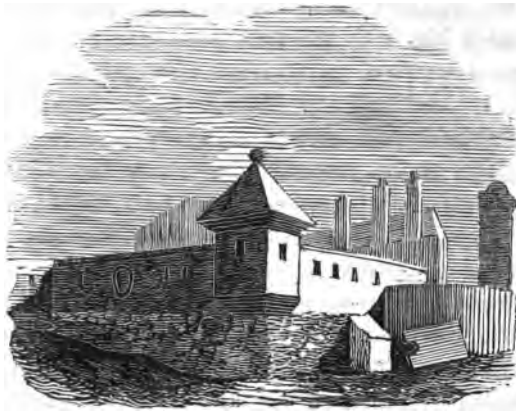
August 14.—About five o'clock in the afternoon, his royal highness prince Leopold, accompanied by baron Hardenbroke, sir Robert Gardiner, and Dr. Stockmar, arrived at the Queen's Head inn, in Newcastle. A considerable concourse of people assembled in front of the inn, and his highness repeatedly gratified their curiosity by exhibiting himself at the windows. In the course of the evening he visited the Northumberland glass-house, and saw the process of glass-making ; he also visited the Assembly rooms, with which he expressed himself much gratified. On the following morning (Sunday), his royal highness went to the house of William Loraine, esq., near St. Nicholas' church, where he condescendingly shewed himself at one of the windows to an immense number of persons assembled in front of the house. It being assize Sunday, as soon as the procession of the judges and corporate body had passed, and they had taken their seats

in the church, his highness, accompanied by sir William Scott, (afterwards lord Stowell, who was then on a visit to his relation, Joseph Forster, esq., mayor), and followed by his suite, proceeded to St. Nicholas' church, which he entered just before service commenced, and was conducted by sir William Scott to the corporation seat. The church was crowded to excess, in expectation of his attendance; and as he passed along the aisle, both in going and coming out of church, he repeatedly bowed to the company on each side. After service his royal highness proceeded to view the Guild-hall, from whence he went to the Mansion-house, and on his way was saluted by the guns on the castle. On his arrival at the Mansion-house, he was received in form by the corporate body in their robes, and conducted into the interior, where his highness partook of a collation. His highness soon after returned to the Queen's Head inn, and about half-past two o'clock left Newcastle for Alnwick castle to dine with his grace the duke of Northumberland. His royal highness arrived at Berwick, on Monday evening, about seven o'clock; his approach to that town was announced by a royal salute from the cannon on the fortifications, and his entrance greeted by the ringing of bells. During his short stay in Berwick, he was waited upon by the mayor and magistrates, when the former presented him with the freedom of the borough. His royal highness seemed much pleased with his reception.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (Aug. 16).—John King, for the wilful murder of James Hamilton, in the cabin of Newbottle colliery staith, during the night of Sunday, the 16th of the preceding May, was executed pursuant to his sentence, at the new drop, in front of the courts, in the city of Durham.—*Ibid*.

September.—In digging to make gas tanks, at the Low Lights, near North Shields, in a place called the Salt Marsh, in Pow Dean, at the depth of twelve feet six inches from the surface, the workmen came to a framing of large oak beams, black as ebony, pinned together with wooden pins or tree-nails; the whole resembling a wharf or pier, whither ships drawing nine or ten feet water had come. Muscleshells lay under an artificial spread or coating of fine clay, as in the bed of a river. Large oak beams were also found, hollowed out as if to convey water. Few stones were met with, only sandy black mud, twelve or thirteen feet deep, and one freestone, squared out in the middle to hold the foot of a wooden pillar; hammer marks were visible in the sides of the square hole. This has probably been part of the erections by the prior of Tynemouth, who at his own cost was obliged to remove, destroy or abolish the use of such, wharfs, markets, buildings, &c., as he had formed at North Shields. The mouth of this burn must have been a secure estuary guarded from

the sea by a peninsula of clay and sandy land, now called Prior's Point, whereon Clifford's Fort was erected in 1672. A prior fort occupied the same or nearly the same site. On the side of the peninsula above referred to, next to the estuary, salt pans were working in the time of the Priory, at Tynemouth; probably as early as the year 800, and so to the dissolution in 1539; and according to local history and other records, the Pow Pans were making salt in the reign of queen Elizabeth. These or the adjacent pans, were, according to Thoresby, engaged in the manufacture of salt in the latter part of the seventeenth century. In 1634, the corporation of the Trinity house, Newcastle, bought land near Tolland's, Delaval's, and Selby's pans, to erect their Low Light upon.—*Gent's Mag.*, &c.



PART OF CLIFFORD'S FORT (1843).

CHAPTER IX.



THE first stone of a Presbyterian chapel was laid on the 7th of September, 1819, at Thirston, near Felton, Northumberland, by Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, on a piece of ground generously granted by that gentleman, who also subscribed £40. to aid in the erection of the said chapel. On this occasion, the rev. George Atkin, of Morpeth, prayed, and an address was delivered by the rev. Alexander Hoy.—*Local Papers*.

September 23.—On the morning, a fire broke out in the dwelling-house of Mr. Young, of Westoe, near South Shields, which in a short time destroyed the whole fabric.—*Ibid*.

September 24.—A most flagrant outrage was committed at Stockton bridge. It had been generally expected that the tolls of the bridge would have ceased in the month of August, but from some expences not calculated upon, it was found necessary, by the trustees, to continue the tolls a short time longer. But the populace took the law into their own hands, and completely demolished the gates; two of them were thrown over the bridge into the river; the other was borne in triumph around the town, and afterwards burnt in the market-place amidst great acclamations. Some of the ring-leaders were taken, tried, and punished. The bridge was opened free of toll the following year.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

September 28.—Mr. William Sadler, the celebrated aeronaut, accompanied by another gentleman, ascended in a balloon at Liverpool, at a quarter past two, P. M. The wind blowing from the S. W., the balloon took a N. E. direction. They passed over the Wolds in

Yorkshire, and had a distant view of the Humber. They descended near Norton, about two miles from Stockton, in the county of Durham, at five minutes past five, having gone 120 miles in two hours and fifty minutes.—*Newc. Cour.*

1819 (Oct. 9).—A dreadful accident happened from the explosion of inflammable gas, in the George pit, near Lumley. The gas ignited at the candle of a hewer named Gee, who had worked into a board, where, owing, it was supposed, to a fall of the roof, a quantity of gas had accumulated from a blower. By this accident eleven men and boys were killed on the spot. Gee and another boy died on the following day of the injury they sustained, and many others were severely hurt.—*Local Papers.*

October 11.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, and neighbourhood, to deliberate on the proceedings at Manchester, was held on the town-moor, near Newcastle, and was most numerously attended. In the early part of the forenoon, the reform societies of Benwell and Fawdon arrived in town, and proceeded to join the Newcastle society assembling in the Castle garth. At half past eleven, the reform societies of Winlaton, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Sunderland, and the eastern part of the Newcastle district, passed through the town. When this immensely long line arrived at the head of Northumberland-street, it halted until the party which had assembled in the Castle-garth, and which did not leave its station till twelve o'clock, passed by it, and took its place at the head of the procession, which then moved to the moor; the parade-ground, on which it had at first been intended to hold the meeting, not being sufficiently capacious to hold the prodigious numbers that attended. The whole was preceded by the hustings, which consisted of a covered platform raised upon the frame and wheels of a waggon, and drawn by three horses, decorated with red ribbons; the hustings were hung round with black cloth, and on the front were inscribed the words, in black letters on a white ground, "TRUTH! ORDER! JUSTICE!" Several of the reform societies which formed the procession, were preceded by a person bearing a *Roman fasces*, meant to signify union and strength, and by a band of music which played at intervals "Rule Britannia," "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," &c. Next the band walked the committee, each member of which was distinguished by a white rod, at the top of which was a small knot of crape tied with white; after these came the classes into which the societies were divided; each being headed by a class leader, bearing at the end of a short black rod a small painted board, on which the number of the class and the initial letter of the society were painted. Each society was also attended with several flags, and at the head of the

whole was borne an union jack, hoisted half staff high, in token of mourning; many of the committees wore white hats with black hat-bands, and many were in black. The classes walked four abreast, holding each others' hands. The Shields reformers were accompanied by about three hundred sailors. Several parties of female reformers were seen in the procession. On the most moderate computation, there could not be fewer than twenty or thirty thousand in rank, while some were of opinion the number was much greater. It was, however, afterwards ascertained by actual admeasurement, that the space occupied by the compact body of the meeting would hold seventy-six thousand persons, at the rate of four to a square yard; but when the thousands of scattered spectators are included, and the close manner in which the great body stood, the whole may be safely stated at one hundred thousand. The announcement of this meeting (by hand bill), excited a great deal of attention and curiosity, and many idle reports of meditated tumult were in previous circulation, but the result proved what little cause there was for apprehension, for never was there a meeting conducted with greater order and decorum, or one which passed off more peaceably.—*Local Papers.*

1819 (Oct. 14).—A serious disturbance took place at North Shields. The mayor of Newcastle, (Archibald Reed, esq.) had proceeded down the river with the civil power, aided by the boats of his majesty's ships, with a view of opening the navigation of the river, (which had been interrupted for some time by the riotous proceedings of the keelmen), and had gone on shore at North Shields. After the mayor, and the other gentlemen who accompanied him, had retired to the Northumberland Arms inn, the mob made an attack, with paving-stones and other missiles, upon the Speedwell steam-packet, by which several of the peace officers and the coxswain of the packet, were severely hurt; the marines then fired in protection of themselves and those in the steam-boat, when, unfortunately, one man, named Joseph Claxton, was shot upon the New Quay; this so exasperated the mob, that they turned their fury upon the inn, with threats of vengeance against the mayor, and exclaiming that they would have blood for blood. By the application of some iron pipes, they soon demolished the doors and windows of the inn, and liberated a man who had been taken into custody, when in the act of throwing stones. By the spirited exertions of Mr. Donkin, the high constable of the district, who fortunately arrived at the door in a chaise at the very time, they were held some time in check, and time was thus afforded Mr. Mayor and the gentlemen to escape by the back part of the inn. From the fury with which they were actuated, there was too much reason to fear that they would have carried their threats into execution; and

so eager were they to attain their object, that they searched every part of the house. Their design was, however, frustrated. They also sought to wreak their vengeance on the officers in the steam-boat, but these had fortunately escaped over in boats to the south side of the river. The mob continued in the streets in the most tumultuous state till a late hour, but the arrival of a party of the 6th dragoon guards from the barracks at Newcastle, somewhat quieted the fears of the inhabitants. The town continued agitated for several days. The jury, after having sat five days on the body of the unfortunate man, returned a verdict of *justifiable homicide*.—*Local Papers*.

1819 (Nov. 2).—Died, at Tynemouth, Mr. Robert Mills, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

November 5.—Died, at Throckley, Mr. John White, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

December 1.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mr. John Stephenson, butcher, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

December 9.—Died, at his house in the Pudding-chare, Newcastle, George Gray, an eminent fruit-painter, in the 61st year of his age.



Mr. Gray, who was of very eccentric habits, was well skilled in chemistry and botany. His fruit pieces, when offered for sale, generally bring good prices. He was the son of Mr. Gilbert Gray, whose death is recorded at page 364, vol. ii. The annexed portrait of Mr. George Gray is engraved from a painting by Mr. H. P. Parker.—*Local Rec. &c.*

1819 (Dec. 12).—Died, in Pipewellgate, Gateshead, Mr. John Anderson, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

December 22.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Catherine Clark, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

December 26.—Mr. Joseph Price, of Gateshead, glass-manufacturer, presented to the inhabitants of that parish, a valuable and elegant window of stained glass, for the south transept of St. Mary's church; in the centre is a representation of the annunciation of the virgin, to whom the church is dedicated, below which is a reference to St. Luke, chap. i. verses 28 and 38, and the following inscription:—"Presented to the inhabitants of St. Mary, Gateshead, by Joseph Price, 1819." On each side of this the principal compartment, are also arched divisions of coloured glass, into which are introduced the arms of the borough of Gateshead. On a line crossing the window, and dividing the above from the lower compartments, which are composed of variegated stained glass, are twelve coats of arms in the following order, viz.:—of the then rector (rev. John Collinson); of the rev. Henry Phillpotts (now bishop of Exeter), and Dr. Prosser, late rectors; of Adam Askew, esq.; Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P.; the bishop of Durham (Barrington); the earls of Darlington and Strathmore; sir Thomas Liddell, bart. (now lord Ravensworth); sir Thomas Clavering, bart.; John George Lambton, esq., M. P. (late lord Durham); and sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., M. P. The brilliancy of the colouring, and the good arrangement of the drapery reflect great credit on the manufactory of the donor. At a meeting of the inhabitants, held in the vestry on the above day, (the rev. John Collinson, rector, in the chair) the thanks of the parish was unanimously voted to Mr. Price, for his very liberal donation.—*Ibid.*

December 26.—Died, at Chilton, Durham, Robert Roan, labourer, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

This month the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer corps of cavalry was formed, under the command of Charles John Brandling, esq., of Gosforth House; and a troop of dismounted yeomanry, to be joined to, and to act with the cavalry, was raised in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

The matrix of a brass seal was found in the church-yard of Long-Newton, in the county of Durham:—"SIGILLUM WILELMI DE BROC;"

and on the inner circle, "G. I. R. E. NOMEN I. Abet." The device, a holy lamb and a cross. William De Broc appears as a witness to charters about the year 1300.—*Local Rec.*

1819.—South Gosforth chapel, near Newcastle, which was rebuilt about the year 1798, was considerably enlarged.—*Ibid.*

New Court Baptist chapel, Westgate street, Newcastle, was built this year.—*Local Papers.*



The Typographical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which owes its origin to the refined literary taste of the late John Trotter Brockett, was instituted this year, Mr. Brockett duly appreciating the many beautiful specimens of typography executed in that town, edited "A Short View of the Raigne of Henry the Third, King of England; presented to King James, 1627," and had it printed on the same description of paper that had been used in the splendid edition of Dugdale's Monasticon, and in the best style of the press of the late Mrs. Hodgson. He likewise printed, in a corresponding style, some other works, as also did Mr. William Garret, which being very favourably received, led to the publication, in 1818, of Mr. Brockett's "Hints on the Propriety of Establishing a Typographical Society in Newcastle-upon-Tyne." The circulation of those hints resulted in the formation of the Society, the publications of which are on a variety of subjects; they are not uniformly re-prints, but occasionally original compositions of individual members. They have been divided, to use the language of one of the members, into *Canonical* and *Deutero-Canonical* publications. The *Canonical* are from the Hodgson press, the *Deutero-canonical*, are the productions of other presses of the

town. The *canonists* are Mr. Adamson, Mr. Brockett, Mr. John Fenwick, Mr. G. T. Fox, Mr. W. Garret, Mr. Thos. Hodgson, John Murray, M. D., Mr. Rob. Roxby, The rev. H. Salvin, sir. Cuthbert Sharp, Mr. John Straker, Mr. John Sykes, Mr. W. G. Thompson, Mr. John Turner, and Mr. Rob. White. The *Deutero-canonists* are Mr. G. N. Clark, Mr. John Fenwick, Mr. William Garret, Mr. W. A. Mitchell, Mr. John Straker, Mr. John Sykes, and Mr. W. G. Thompson. The publications are generally for private distribution only; but occasionally some of them are offered for sale, and they are distinguished by the vignette of the member publishing, that at the head of this article was the vignette used by Mr. Brockett. They are very favourably noticed in Martyn's Catalogue of Privately Printed Works. Those by Mr. Adamson and Mr. Hodgson, are most beautiful specimens of the Typographic art, and reflect the highest credit on our local press. We should have added a catalogue, but we understand that a member of the society is engaged on an enlarged account of its publications.—*J. Fenwick's MS.*

1820 (Jan. 1).—The first number of a newspaper entitled "The Durham Chronicle, or General Northern Advertiser," was published in the city of Durham, by Mr. John Ambrose Williams. It is at present published by Mr. John Hardinge Veitch.—*Local Rec.*

January 3.—Died, at Wall's End, Mrs. Kenlish, aged 105 years. She retained all her faculties till within a few days of her death.—*Local Papers.*

January 6.—About eight o'clock in the evening, a dreadful explosion of gas, by which several persons were seriously injured and an infant killed, took place in Forth-street, Newcastle. During the greater part of that day, the family of Mr. Benjamin Slater, in front of whose house, in that street, one of the main gas pipes passed, but without having any communication with the house, had been greatly annoyed with the smell of gas, which was escaping from the pipe into the house. Information of this circumstance was communicated to the proper persons, at the gas-works, who promised to remedy the inconvenience next day, not conceiving any immediate danger. In the evening, however, as Mrs. Slater was sitting in the parlour conversing with a friend, she sent her daughter with a candle to the closet, when a most violent explosion of gas took place, by which the upper part of this house, and the whole of the back part of the one adjoining, were blown out and destroyed, and the houses otherwise much injured. Mrs. Slater's daughter was scorched most shockingly over all her body, and a young child was forced from Mrs. Slater's arms into the fire-place. Mrs. Slater was also much hurt. Mrs.

Fletcher, her friend, escaped unhurt. But more serious injury was sustained in the adjoining house, occupied by Mr. John Slater, who was that evening entertaining a party of friends. The part of the house where they were sitting was quite demolished, and they were so crushed among the ruins, that it was some time before they were extricated. Mrs. John Slater had both her ancles put out. Mrs. Debnam had also both her ancles put out, and her arm broken; and had the further misfortune of having her child, a baby of about five weeks old, which she was holding in her arms, unfortunately killed. Mr. Debnam also received some injury, as did Mr. John Slater, and some others. From the violence of the explosion, some tables and chairs were thrown across the street, and a window being blown quite out, was thrown to a great distance. Some persons passing were also hurt by the falling bricks, &c. At the assizes held in Newcastle in August 1821, Mr. Debnam brought an action against the gas company, and obtained £460 damages.—*Local Rec.*

1820 (Jan. 12).—About half-past nine o'clock at night an alarming fire broke out in the house occupied by Mrs. Lynn, in New Cross-street, Sunderland. The flames burst out with great violence, and apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the neighbouring houses, but by the speedy arrival of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of the inhabitants in supplying them with water, the fire was confined to the back part of the premises in which it commenced, and which it completely destroyed. It is melancholy to add, that Mrs. Lynn was herself unfortunately burnt to death.—*Local Papers.*

February 3.—The accession of his majesty George the Fourth to the throne of these realms was proclaimed in Newcastle. About two o'clock in the afternoon, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, several of the aldermen, and other members of the corporation, attended by the general of the district, sir Andrew Bernard, and other military officers, after having drunk the health of his majesty, in the Guildhall, appeared on the Sandhill in front of that building, and there, in the presence of an immense assemblage of people, after a flourish of trumpets, the proclamation was read by Mr. James Sopwith, town-marshal. The reading of it was received with cheers, and immediately after, a royal salute was fired from the guns on the castle. The procession then moved forward, preceded by the band of the 6th dragoon guards, mounted, playing "*God save the King*;" these were followed by a party of free-porters bearing halberds, the serjeants at mace, town-marshal, &c., accompanied with a flag, on which was represented the arms of the town. Next came the sword and mace bearers, who were followed by the mayor, supported on his right by sir Andrew Bernard, and on his left by another officer. His worship was follow-

ed by the recorder, aldermen, and sheriff, together with many officers and several members of the common council and other gentlemen; the whole was closed by two troops of the 6th dragoon guards. When the procession arrived opposite to St. Nicholas' church it halted, and the proclamation was repeated. The procession again moved forward up the Middle street, to the White cross, and along Low Friar street, and Westgate street, to the castle, at both of which places the proclamation was again read. From the castle the procession returned by the head of the Side and Mosley street, to the Guildhall. During the day the bells of the churches rung several peals.—*Local Papers.*



BONDGATE TOWER, ALNWICK.

1820 (Feb. 5).—The king was proclaimed at Alnwick. The high sheriff, William Orde, of Nunnykirk, esq., arrived a little before one o'clock at the Swan inn, (where several gentlemen had assembled to attend him) and proceeded immediately to the Market-cross, preceded by a band of music, the under sheriff and bailiffs with white wands. He was accompanied by his grace the duke of Northumberland, and several of the magistrates and country gentlemen; the staff of the county militia also attended. After the proclamation was read, during which the people were uncovered, the populace joined the gentry in cheering, and his majesty's health was drunk amidst shouts of approbation, while the band played "*God save the King.*" The duke of Northumberland had ordered several barrels of ale and carts with bread and cheese, to be in the Market-place; the provisions and liquor were distributed to the people, while a double royal salute was

fired from the field-pieces at the castle, and the flag hoisted. The procession then returned to the Swan inn, and from thence accompanied his grace to his princely mansion, where a very handsome collation was served for such gentlemen as called. Upwards of two hundred of his grace's permanent workmen, and the children of their grace's schools, with the militia staff, being together above five hundred persons, had bread and cheese, and ale served out to them in the inner court of this ancient pile, where the duke and duchess set them the example of drinking his majesty's health, in which they all heartily joined. The high sheriff, as well as the duke, broke their glasses after drinking the king's health, according to the good old custom on such occasions, to prevent their ever being used again on a less important event. Proclamations were made at all the other towns in the district.—*Local Papers.*

1820 (Feb. 16).—The day of interment of the remains of his most gracious majesty George III. was observed in Newcastle with every mark of mourning and respect. At eight o'clock the flag on the castle was hoisted half-staff high, and continued so until the evening; the flags of the several ships in the harbour were also displayed half-mast high; the bells of the different churches were muffled, and rung mourning peals during the day. At the usual time on the morning there was service in the several churches and chapels, and appropriate sermons preached; the churches were hung with black. The soldiers, composing the garrison, consisting of some troops of the 6th dragoon guards, and parties of royal artillery, and of the 33rd and 40th foot, marched through the town to St. Nicholas' church in slow and solemn step, the band playing a very mournful air; this had a most impressive effect. The instruments of the band were hung with crape. The Newcastle lodge of free masons also attended divine service in St. Nicholas' church, but without their insignia. The soldiers returned from church without music. From one o'clock till two, minute guns were fired from the castle, and between each gun the great bell of St. Nicholas gave a solemn toll. This was repeated between four and five o'clock in the evening. The shops were all shut during the day, and business generally suspended. The day was observed in a similarly mournful manner at all the neighbouring towns and many of the villages. George III. died January 29th, 1820, in the 82nd year of his age, and his son George IV. was proclaimed in London on the 31st of January.—*Ibid.*

March 11.—Died, at Salutation, near Darlington, Mr. Benjamin Garnett, in his 105th year. He never experienced one day's illness, and walked about till a few hours before his death, and had the use of his faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

1820 (March 24).—This being the day appointed for the Northumberland and Newcastle cavalry, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Brandling, to receive their colours, the corps, which was then on permanent duty, preceded by the band of the 6th dragoon guards, marched to the town-moor, and being formed on three sides of a square, fronting the grand stand, Mrs. Brandling, supported by Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Brown (Mrs. Dixon Dixon), in their joint names presented the standards intended for the three squadrons, observing, “that when they requested the corps to allow them the high honour of presenting them with their standards, they felt the fullest conviction, that they entrusted them to those, who, in every situation, would defend them like Englishmen;” to which the colonel replied in a speech fraught with loyalty. The standards were then delivered to the troops, whose loud cheers, accompanied by a salute fired by the royal artillery, had a grand and impressive effect.—*Local Papers*.

In the early part of this year, C. W. Bigge, esq., of Linden house, munificently contributed to the comfort, convenience, and elegance of Longhorsley church, by building a new vestry, repairing the chancel, and enlarging the arch between the church and chancel, which before was so contracted as literally to divide them into two separate apartments; he also made an elegant altar-table and rails, from a part of an immense oak tree, dug out of a moss in his estate, where it must have lain for an unknown series of ages.—*Hist. of Northd.*

April 28.—Died, at Langley, in Kent, her grace the duchess dowager of Northumberland, in her 67th year. May 10th, her grace’s remains were interred in the same vault in St. Nicholas’ chapel, in Westminster abbey, in which those of the late duke were deposited. There were upwards of one hundred private carriages in the procession, besides mourning coaches.—*Local Papers*.

April 28.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which event two persons lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—Died, at Heathery Burn, near Hexham, Mrs. Margaret Lee, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

May 5.—The first stone of a new chapel in the Wesleyan Methodist connection, was laid in Northumberland-street, Newcastle. The rev. Edmund Grindrod delivered a short address to a respectable audience. He stated, that the first stone of the contiguous chapel (Orphan house), for which this was intended as an enlarged substitute, was laid by the rev. John Wesley, on the 20th of December, 1742, and that for many years past it had been much too small to accommodate the stated hearers. Friday, February 23rd, 1821, this elegant chapel was first opened for divine worship, when eloquent and powerful sermons were preached by the rev. Messrs. Newton, Ather-

ton, and Wood, to crowded audiences. The register of births and baptisms 1555 entries, extend from 1788 to 1837. Very neat houses were soon after built on each side of the opening which leads from Northumberland-street to the chapel, and which is called Brunswick-place.—*Local Papers. Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*

1820 (May 17).—A thunder storm passed over Newcastle; a concussion took place directly over the centre of the town about one o'clock, and instantly a mass of fire fell with a stunning report, as though a bomb had burst near the ear. The lightning struck the chimney of a house at the foot of the Side, which it scattered partly into the street and partly through the roof, providentially without injuring any person. The lightning also struck the spindle at the mast-head of a sloop, near White-hill point, on the river Tyne, shivered the mast from end to end, burnt one of the sails to tinder in an instant, and raised the deck from the beams four or five inches. A hole was made in the mast, as if an eighteen pounder had gone into it.—*Ibid.*

May 26.—Died in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Thomas Matfin, aged 77 years. When a boy, and in St. John's charity school, he was supposed to have died. His school-fellows, according to the then custom, attended to sing at his funeral. On entering the church porch their voices reverberated so shrilly, as to arouse him from his lethergy, and he turned on his side to listen. The underbearers, who were just setting the coffin upon the bier, felt the motion, and in a fright informed the clergyman, who ordered the lid to be unscrewed. On perceiving that life had returned, he was immediately taken home to his aunt's house in Low Friar-street, where he was wrapped in a blanket, and having drank a little of some invigorating cordial, was put to bed, and soon recovered. He afterwards became a keelman, and being in his old age, turned out of the keelmen's hospital for irregular conduct, he became an inmate of All Saint's poor-house, where he died as above stated, and was interred at All Saints' church by the rev. Robert Green, on the 28th of May.—*Local Rec.*

June 20.—Died, at Slaley, in Northumberland, Mrs. Mary Carr, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

June 22.—The foundation of a new bridge at Chester-le-street was laid in the presence of a great number of the inhabitants. On taking down part of the old bridge, an old copper coin, supposed to be of James I., was found amongst the rubbish. February 22nd, 1821, this bridge was opened for public carriages, when the workmen were regaled on the bridge at the charge of earl Grey. The inscription of "Grey's Arch, November 17th, 1820," was cut on the stone over the arch, being the day his lordship was drawn through the town by the

inhabitants, as he was returning from London from the defence of her majesty queen Caroline.—*Local Papers.*

1820 (June).—This month, the workmen digging in the streets at North Shields, to lay gas pipes in a place called the Bull ring, came to a large flat square stone, in which, on being turned over, were found, greatly corroded, the iron bolt and ring to which bulls had been made fast, when baited there in old times. The town was first lighted with gas, on October 19th this year—*Ibid.*



IN THE LOW STREET, NORTH SHIELDS.

July 8.—The bill for lighting, cleansing, and improving the town of Stockton-upon-Tees, received the royal assent. November 15th, 1822, the town was first lighted with gas, on which occasion there was a public dinner, and the bells were rung during the lighting of the lamps.—*Ibid.*

July 19.—The chain bridge across the river Tweed, near Paxton Ford, about six miles above Berwick, was opened to the public. Captain S. Brown, R. N., the inventor, in his tandem, first, followed by twelve double horse carts, laden with stones, and Mr. Molle, of Molle Mains, in his carriage, passed and returned along the bridge. The stability of the structure being tried, the right hon. the earl of Home, and the commissioners of the high roads, preceded by the bands of the Berwickshire and Northumberland militias, playing

"God save the King," then passed along it. The earl of Home and a numerous party of gentlemen sat down to a most excellent dinner, prepared in a tent, by Mr. Paulin, of Horndean, and the day was spent in the utmost harmony. Several thousands of people were present at the opening. The suspension arch is forty-five feet, and is sufficient to allow two carts to pass, and a foot-path on each side. The extreme length of the suspended chains from the point of junction, on each side of the river Tweed, is five hundred and ninety feet; from the stone abutments, four hundred and thirty-two feet; and the height above the surface of the river is twenty-seven feet. The weight of the chains, platform, &c. is about one hundred and sixty tons; but the bridge is calculated to support a weight of three hundred and sixty tons,—a greater weight, in all probability, than it will ever be subjected to. This curious and elegant structure only cost £5,000. It is called the Union Bridge, and was commenced building on the 19th of July, 1819.—*Local Papers*.

1820 (July 27).—Died, at Darlington, Jane Rutherford, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

September 9.—Died, at Great Aycliffe, Durham, Ann Simpson, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

October 31.—As Arthur Marlham, of Greatham, was shrimping on the sand islands, in the river Tees, he was overtaken by the tide in the dusk of the evening. He did not see his danger till he was nearly surrounded by the water, and knowing there was no possibility of escape, he began to consider how he could longest preserve himself from being carried away by the tide. A sand bank for a few yards was all the uncovered space left him: he selected the highest spot, on which he placed his *leap* (a wicker basket carried on the shoulder in shrimping), and fixed his shrimping-pole, with the net downwards, to give the pole as sure a purchase as he could, he mounted his basket, and held by the pole. The tide soon covered his feet, and gradually flowed as high as his middle. After three hours, he thought he saw the water begin to fall; but in a few minutes, a breeze sprung up, and the tide flowed again six or seven inches. The tide, however, was falling, and he remained on his sand-bank till he was relieved by the fishing boats in the morning. His situation in the river was two miles from the Durham coast, and three from Yorkshire, in the midst of the Tees estuary, with the wide ocean full in front at the river mouth. He said it was an awful sight to *look over the waters*; but his presence of mind and his trust in providence never forsook him.—*Surtees*.

November 20.—Newcastle and Gateshead were brilliantly illuminated, as a testimony of joy on the abandonment of the bill against

her majesty queen Caroline, consort of George IV. About seven o'clock in the evening the lighting commenced, and a number of devices and transparencies were exhibited in various parts of the town. The smaller mottoes in general were—"Long live Queen Caroline;" "Innocence Triumphant;" "Earl Grey for Ever," &c., &c. The house of Mr. Joseph Price, in Gateshead, was one entire blaze of lamps of various tints, and of the most brilliant lustre. Illuminations and other rejoicings were very general throughout the counties of Durham and Northumberland. August 7th, 1821, her majesty died at Hammersmith, after an illness of eight days.—*Local Papers*.



1820 (Dec).—This month, immediately above the excavation of the lime-stone at Carley-hill quarry, which is situated about a quarter of a mile west of Fulwell-hill, in the parish of Monkwearmouth, and about two hundred yards west of Hill-house, the residence of Mr. Wake, senior, whilst removing the surplus soil, Thomas Dobson, quarryman, found a Roman figure, which appeared to be a Lar. There were found at the same time, several portions of human bones, and a quantity of common rock limpet shells, embedded in lime-stone rubbish and surface soil. It is worthy of remark, that several excavations have been discovered in the solid lime-stone rock at Carley-hill (similar to stone coffins) containing human bones.—*Arch. Eliana*.

This year, Mrs. Mary Pease, widow of Mr. Joseph Pease, of Darlington, woollen manufacturer, erected four alms-houses in Darlington, for the residence of four poor widows of the age of fifty years at least, and of good moral character and reputation, to be nominated by the Society of Friends.—*Local Papers*.

This year, on ploughing a field called the Back Yards, situated to

the west of the village of Dinnington, adjoining Prestwick Carr, Northumberland, the foundation of a building, and several human bones, and some skulls with the teeth perfect in the jaw bones, were discovered about a yard below the surface of the earth. Numerous other stones and *fire-bricks* were also found, and a regular pavement of whinstones to some extent. Two stones, which had been dressed, when joined together formed the figure of an octagon, and were evidently the remains of a gothic pillar. A stone was also found, in the shape of a ball, with a perforation in the centre, similar to such as were anciently used on the tops of pillars, at the entrance gate of mansion houses, or other buildings. On the southern boundary of this field are yet to be seen, the foundation of a wall.—*Maddison's Prestwick Carr.*

1820.—The register of births and baptisms of Zion chapel, (Independent) Westgate-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, extend from 1821 to 1829.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

The great northern gateway which stood across Sadler-street, in the city of Durham, was this year taken down.—*Surtees.*

This year and the following, the Register office in the Palace-green, in the city of Durham, was built by subscription on the site of the old county courts.—*Ibid.*

1821 (Jan. 2).—Early on the morning, John Wilson, a pitman, aged 64 years, fell down the shaft of Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead, in the dark, but fortunately caught hold of the rope with his left hand, at the depth of about eighty feet; although it lacerated his hand by the friction, he was able to stop his descent and suspend himself, until his fellow-workmen heard his cries, and lowered down a corf by another rope, which took above a quarter of an hour, when providentially he got into it and was drawn up safely. Had he descended a few fathoms lower, he would have passed the end of the rope, and must have been killed by a fall of four hundred and fifty feet.—*Local Rec.*

January 5.—When some workmen were removing rubbish on the premises of Mr. Fair, of Hide-hill, Berwick, cabinet-maker, they found a small wooden box, containing eighteen gold pieces of Henry VIII., Mary, and Elizabeth; and also twenty silver coins of Elizabeth. The whole in good preservation. The gold coins weighed two and a half ounces, and the silver coins, two ounces. The workmen immediately sold their prize to a jeweller, and regaled themselves with the proceeds.—*Local Papers.*

January 7.—Died, at Dam-house, near Kirkley, Mrs. Margaret Rowland, in her 101st year.—*Ibid.*

January 19.—Died, at West Thriston, in Northumberland, aged 74

years, John Marshall, better known by the name of "*Blind Johnny*." He lost his sight by the small-pox, when four years of age, but the perfection in which he possessed the sense of hearing, compensated in a great measure for the loss. He worked occasionally at the anvil and the loom, but for a considerable time before his death, his main dependance for support was on his skill in playing on the violin. So intimately was he acquainted with the surrounding country, that he could readily find any part of it without a guide; indeed, he sometimes acted as a guide to strangers.—*Local Papers*.

1821 (Feb. 15).—The chapel belonging to the establishment, at Hylton-ferry, near Sunderland, erected and endowed at the sole expense of T. J. Maling, esq., captain R. N., was consecrated by the bishop of St David's.—*Ibid*.

Same day, died, at the Westgate, Newcastle, aged 96 years, Ann Nichol, formerly of Horsley, and one of the eldest members of the Methodist society in this district. When the Orphan-house, in Northumberland-street, was built in 1742, she sold a piece of cloth to enable her to contribute towards its erection; and it was remarkable that the Orphan-house was closed as a place of divine worship on the day of her interment.—*Ibid*.

February 19.—Died, at the North-shore, near Newcastle, Elizabeth Dryden, aged 107 years.—*Ibid*.

March 6.—Died, at Cullercoats, Mrs. Isabella Armstrong, widow, aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.



OLD HOUSE AT CULLERCOATS (1841).

Said to have been the Sea-side residence of a Duchess of Somerset.

March 9.—The brewery at Monkseaton, near North Shields, was discovered to be on fire, and before it was got under, the drying kiln

was totally destroyed, with about sixty bolls of malt.—*Local Papers.*

1821 (March 20).—A newly-erected steam mill, for grinding corn at Stockton, belonging to Mr. C. Cooke, was discovered to be on fire, and the whole of the building, except the engine-house, together with a quantity of corn and flour, was consumed.—*Ibid.*

March 23.—Died, at South Shields, Hannah Marshall, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

March 28.—Died, at his house in Portman-place, London, in the 64th year of his age, Michael Bryan, esq., a native of Newcastle. Mr. Bryan was an ingenious connoisseur in the fine arts, who also distinguished himself as an author. He was at one time a picture dealer, but though possessed of undoubted skill and judgment as to the merits of the productions of ancient and modern painters, he was so unfortunate in some of his speculations as to be obliged to relinquish that pursuit. His taste and knowledge, however, were so highly appreciated, that his opinion was often sought, and many large sums have been expended in works of art through his recommendation. Retiring from active life, he engaged in the composition of a "Biographical and Critical Dictionary of Painters and Engravers," which was commenced in 1813, and published in 1816, in 2 vols. 4to. This work is more copious and accurate than that of Pilkington, and many of the original sketches do much credit to the writer. Mr. Bryan married the sister of the earl of Shrewsbury.—*Local Rec.*

March 28.—Died, at Widdrington, in Northumberland, aged 68 years, Mr. Robert Reed. Mr. Reed resided at Widdrington, but his chief employment was in travelling through the adjoining country in the capacity of a pedlar and a bee-master, and he is still well remembered in all the farm-houses in the neighbourhood, as an ingenious and useful man, and "a good honest crack." He obtained a prize from the Society of Arts and Commerce, for the management of bees. Part of his stock of bees, which was at times very large, was kept at Widdrington, the rest dispersed among the farmers and cottagers in the vicinity; and his advice about the management of apiaries was constantly solicited and freely given through the circuit in which he travelled. He frequently exhibited in the markets at Alnwick, Morpeth, and other places, a swarm of bees, hanging from his hand.—*Newc. Cour.*

This month, the lower part of the horn of a deer, of extraordinary size, was dug up in the grounds at Campville, South Preston, near Tynemouth. Mr. Fenwick, the proprietor, had ordered a well to be filled up, first removing the walling stones. Considerably in the earth, near the stones, the remains of this large antler were found, in the north-east angle of the Roman camp, called in Brand, "*Blake*

Chesters," and referred to by Camden in one of his oblong squares (*Blake Chesters* being the principal) running in a zigzag direction from *Segedunum* (Wallsend) to Tynemouth. Sacrifices of wild animals to the Gods were frequently made in these stations; and some faint tradition yet remains of a temple to Diana, or some heathen Deity, having stood in Middle Chirton, the western side of this camp or chain of forts. The head of an ancient spear had been dug up in the same site.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1821 (April 4).—The foundation stone of a new subscription library was laid on the site of the old gaol, in the city of Durham, on which occasion Dr. Fenwick delivered a suitable address to the company assembled.—*Local Papers.*

April 25.—The foundation stone of a Baptist chapel was laid in Barrington-street, South Shields.—*Ibid.*

May 16.—The building a stone bridge, at the expense of the duke of Northumberland, over the river Alne, near Alnwick abbey, was begun. This was a great public accommodation, as the ford there was often very dangerous to pass.—*Ibid.*

May 23.—The foundations of a new chapel, to be built by subscription, began to be dug out at Nether Heworth, in the county of Durham, the first stone of which, inclosing an appropriate inscription on copper, was laid on the following day. This chapel was opened for divine worship on the 5th of May, 1822. On the 22th of September, 1808, half an acre which had been added to this chapel-yard, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham.—*Ibid.*



HEWORTH OLD CHAPEL.

June 2.—About two o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the barn, thrashing-machine, and straw-house, belonging to John Russell, esq., of Heworth, and before the progress of the flames could be stopped, the machinery, roofs, and interior of the houses were consumed.—*Ibid*

1821 (June 16).—The London mail proceeding southward was overturned upon Sunderland-bridge, which crosses the Wear on the great north road, three miles south from Durham, owing it should seem to the driver making too wide a turn on entering the bridge to avoid a groom who was taking the turn at the same time on horseback. Two passengers, Mr. Thomas Donaldson, a grazier in Perthshire, and Mr. Samuel Whitaker, of Bingley, builder, were precipitated from the roof of the coach over the parapet-wall on the upper side of the bridge, a depth of upwards of twenty-five feet, and were dashed against the frame-work of one of the buttresses, which, as the river was low, was left dry. Mr. Donaldson was killed on the spot, and Mr. Whitaker only survived four hours. The guard was thrown from his seat against the battlements, but fell to the inside; and the driver was thrown between the horses and the wall. Mr. Chater, of Newcastle, solicitor, who was on the box, escaped by holding on; the inside passengers received no injury. The remains of both the unfortunate sufferers were interred in Brancepath church-yard on the 23rd, attended by a large concourse of people. James Auld, the driver of the mail, was found guilty of manslaughter at the August assizes, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, but was liberated in February 1822.—*Surtees*.

July 1.—Died, at the Moor-houses, in Northumberland, Ann Rule, single-woman, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

July 7.—John, lord Eldon, lord high chancellor of England, was created an earl by the stile of viscount Encombe and earl of Eldon.—*Ibid.*

July 9.—An explosion took place in Rainton North Pit, when one man lost his life.—*Ibid.*

Same day, an explosion took place in Coxlodge colliery, by which one man lost his life.—*Ibid.*

July 10.—During the preparations in Newcastle, for the celebration of the coronation, the workmen, on breaking the pavement on the Sandhill, for a foundation for the temporary wine pant, discovered a large stone with an iron ring, to which formerly bulls had been fastened for that cruel torture, bull-baiting.—*Ibid.*

July 12.—The workmen employed in converting Gunner-tower (part of the town's wall, Newcastle), near the Forth-lane, into a hall, for the incorporated company of slaters and tylers, found a large quantity of shillings and sixpences of the coinage of Edward I.—*Ibid.*

July 15.—Died, Mr. William Cant, master of the Blue Bell, head of the Side, Newcastle, aged 70 years, formerly piper to the Northumberland militia. He was an excellent performer on the violin and

the Northumberland pipes, and, like his great predecessors on the latter instrument, Turnbull, Gilley, old Lamshaw, and Peacock, he kept up the ancient tunes, with all their charming lilt and pauses, unspoiled by the modern improvers of music, with their "idiot notes impertinently long." He played "his native wood notes wild," such as pleased the ears of the yeomanry of old at Otterburn, Hedgeley Moor, and Floddon Field, and

"When e'er his pipe did silence break,

You'd thought the instrument would speak."—*Local Rec.*

1821 (July 19).—Being the day of the coronation of his majesty George IV., was observed throughout the counties of Northumberland and Durham with great rejoicings. In the city of Durham, a small ox, the gift of lord Stuart (now marquis of Londonderry), was roasted at the head of Old Elvet. It was soon cut in pieces, which, together with a quantity of bread, were thrown indiscriminately to the public; but no sooner was this done, than the populace immediately commenced pelting, with it, those on the platform, so that his lordship's generosity on this occasion was literally thrown away. Several barrels of ale were also given away, which added considerably to the tumult and confusion. At North Shields a quantity of meat and bread was distributed to the public in a manner highly commendable. Several tables were set out in the Market-place, and a loaf of bread, and two pounds of meat on a cabbage leaf, with fourpence to purchase ale, were given to such poor persons who had procured tickets for them. At Newcastle, extraordinary preparations had been made for the celebration of this event. The large fire-places, or rather double furnaces, between which the two oxen intended for public distribution were to be roasted, the immense spits, cranes, scaffolding, &c., were completed in the early part of the week, and became objects of curious inspection; one was placed in the centre of the Spital—the other, at the foot of the Old Flesh Market; near each of them was a wooden pant or fountain, to run beer. In the centre of the Sandhill was another temporary, but larger fountain, to run wine. About two o'clock on the morning, the fires were lighted, and the roasting of the oxen commenced, and from that hour the streets became crowded with people. Numbers had arrived from the country the evening before, but on Thursday morning, the day being auspiciously fine, they poured into the town by thousands in all sorts of vehicles. Never did the streets of Newcastle exhibit such a congregated mass. At six o'clock on the morning the guns from the castle announced, by a royal salute, that the rejoicings had commenced; the flag was hoisted, the ships displayed their colours, and the bells of the several churches rang their merry peals. About nine o'clock all was anxious expectation to

witness the boat race from Walker's quay to Tyne bridge, for the following prizes, which had been announced a few days previous by bills, viz:—For the first boat six sovereigns; second boat three ditto; third boat two ditto; and the fourth boat one ditto, given by the corporation; in addition to which, the Trinity-house was to present the first boat with an elegant blue silk flag, on which was gilt a crown and suitable inscription. This flag was the great object of ambition to the competitors, and for which thirteen boats had entered. In consequence of a dispute, the prizes were not adjudged until the competitors again tried their skill on August 1st (the anniversary of the battle of the Nile), when the flag was won by the Laurel Leaf, belonging to Stella. At half-past nine o'clock, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriff, and common council, met, and voted an address to his majesty; after which, the mayor, George Forster, esq., was invested with a gold chain and medallion, which had been voted at a former common council, and which was to be worn by all future chief magistrates of that town. At half-past ten o'clock, the mayor and corporation, preceded by a band of music, and followed by a number of gentlemen, walked in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. John Smith, M.A., vicar, from 1st Kings, 1st chap. 39th verse. Before the return of the magistracy, &c. from church, immense crowds had assembled at the places which were to be the scenes of expected festivity, particularly the Sandhill, in the centre of which stood the wine pant which was a neat erection of wood, twelve feet high, painted to resemble stone, and surmounted by a cupola, copper bronze, on the top of which, was a full sized imperial crown, encircling a cap of state of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine. At the bottom of the roof was a ledge, below which was "G. IIII. R.," in gilt letters, and beneath this was a very neat painting of the arms of the town. On the return of the magistrates, &c., to the Sandhill, it was found utterly impossible to approach the pant, they therefore proceeded to the Town court, when having come forward to the great window, they drank his majesty's health, which was followed by a royal salute from the guns on the castle, and repeated peals of bells from the churches. At the same moment the pant began to run wine, when an almost indescribable scene of uproarious confusion commenced. During the struggles to obtain a part of the wine, a man got upon the tub, and seizing the spout, clang to it until his clothes were literally torn from his body.* After running upwards of an hour, the wine ceased to

* Mr. Parker, the artist, of Newcastle, painted a picture of this ludicrous scene. After being exhibited in London, it was purchased by the corporation of Newcastle, for the purpose of decorating the walls of the Mansion-house.

flow, when, having nothing to attract their attention, the mob began to throw about the pots, soaked hats, caps, &c., to the no small annoyance of the peaceably inclined inhabitants. The top of the court was crowded with people, as was every window on the Sandhill. Many houses had a kind of gallery erected on their tops with seats for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen. The pant was totally torn down, and a great part of it carried away by the mob. During the time of the exhibition on the Sandhill, the ox at the bottom of the Old Flesh Market was taken from the fire, by means of a crane, to a stage erected for the purpose, and four butchers ascended the platform to cut it in pieces for distribution. As they cut the pieces, they threw them amongst the crowd, who, in return, pelted the butchers with the pieces of meat and bones, until they drove them from the stage. The remains of the ox were then taken possession of, and soon distributed; and the chain of the crane having been broken in an attempt to pull the stage up with it, it was fastened to part of the skeleton of the animal, which was then dragged through the streets to the Sandhill. The furnace was then partly pulled to pieces; and fragments of meat, and even brick bats, began to fly in all directions, many persons receiving bruises. The procession of mail coaches passing at the time, was shamefully pelted, and one of the men much hurt. The distribution of the ox at the Spital was attended with similar circumstances; the butchers, &c., were speedily driven from the stage, and the skeleton taken possession of and dragged to the Sandhill. The ale kept running from the pants in the Old Flesh Market and the Spital till near three o'clock, when the pants were demolished. By this time the crowd was attracted to the town-moor to witness the race for the gold cup, and the streets were soon quiet. This was a fortunate circumstance, for had there been no other object, it is most probable that the peace of the town would not have been so soon restored. As it was, on their return from the town-moor, the mob assailed the remains of the temporary erections in the Flesh Market and the Spital, and carried off the planks and all the iron in their power. At ten o'clock, further demolition was stopped by the police. There was a pant ran beer in the Milk Market, Sandgate, which was chiefly occupied by women and children. The inmates of the corporation hospitals received five shillings each from that body, and five shillings more from the members for the town. The prisoners in the gaol and house of correction received five shillings each. The children of the endowed charity schools of the four parishes were provided with a substantial dinner, as were the inmates of the poor houses. There were grand dinners at the Mansion-house and Trinity-house. At the Assembly-rooms was a ball; and the pit and gallery

of the Theatre were opened to the free burgesses, gratis, on the invitation of the mayor by a bill. In the afternoon there was a grand military review on the town-moor. In the evening sir Robert Shafto Hawks had a very tasteful illumination on the outside of his house in Clavering-place, which was repeated the following evening. At Gateshead the rejoicings commenced at six o'clock in the morning, by the bells ringing a merry peal, which, with the firing of guns at the factory of Messrs. Hawks, continued at intervals. At nine o'clock the children of St. Edmund's chapel school, to the number of 340, assembled in the rectory garden, and received each a sixpence of the new coinage, a glass of wine, and a cake, and a copy of our national anthem, "God save the King," which they sung with enthusiasm. The money was subscribed by the members of the school committee. A subscription was entered into by the inhabitants of Gateshead, which was distributed among the poor, and a plentiful dinner given to the inmates of the poor-house. Much private charity was dispensed.

Local Rec.



THE WINE PANT.

CHAPTER X.



ABOUT eleven o'clock on the forenoon of Thursday the 26th of July, 1821, the soap manufactory belonging to Anthony Clapham and Co., at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire, and in a few minutes the flames blazed with great fury, and threatened the most tremendous consequences. The assistance of the workmen from the neighbouring manufactories was immediately volunteered, by whose exertions, with the aid of the fire engines, the destructive element was in a short time overcome. It originated in, and was confined to, that part of the building exclusively appropriated to the preparation of alkalies, the timbers and flooring of which were exceedingly dry, from the heat of the process, and the long continued dryness of the weather.—*Local Papers.*

August 9.—About one o'clock on the morning, a destructive fire broke out in that part of the premises occupied by the Northumberland Glass Company, which fronted the Close, Newcastle; and such was the violence of the flames, and the rapidity with which they spread, that by two o'clock the greater part of the premises was in a complete blaze, and, in defiance of all efforts, that very extensive establishment, with the warehouses, and the greater part of the superb stock, fell a prey to the flames. The only part left standing was the cone, containing the furnace, adjoining the river Tyne. Some adjoining dwelling-houses, inhabited by labouring people, were involved in the calamity, several families having nearly lost their all. Great fears were entertained for the safety of the soap manufactory (which at one time was on fire), belonging to Messrs. Doubleday and Co., adjoining to the Glass-house on the west side, but a strong west wind carried the flames in an opposite direction. The Mansion-house

and Messrs. Doubleday and Co.'s counting-house being on the east side, and nearly adjoining the Glass-house, were in imminent danger from the flames and heavy showers of sparks which were carried to them by the wind. And, to add to the danger, several hundreds of barrels of rosin were lying in an open yard close to the Mansion-house; on them the sparks fell thick and fast, but fortunately they did not take fire, though, to prevent such a catastrophe, men were placed on the watch with buckets of water, and many of the casks were removed into the street. By great exertions the fire was confined to the Glass-house premises, and about half-past five o'clock was got nearly under, though some of the ruins continued to burn during the day.—*Local Papers*.

1821 (Sep. 10).—John Wilkinson and William Surtees Hetherington, for robbing Mr. William Nesbit, farmer, of Long Benton, on Benton Bank, on his return from Newcastle in the evening of the preceding 7th of April, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentence. They were taken from the gaol to the place of execution in a post-chaise, preceded by a band of singers. On their arrival at the fatal spot (a little below the east end of the town), they ascended the scaffold with firmness, when they joined in prayer with the clergyman, and seemed very penitent. They were then launched into eternity, and, after hanging the usual time, their bodies were given to their friends.—*Ibid*.

September 28.—Died, at South Shields, aged 70 years, William Wouldhave, many years clerk of St. Hilda's chapel in that town. Mr. Wouldhave claimed to be the original inventor of the Life Boat, having in 1789, presented a model to the committee appointed for the purpose of constructing a boat calculated to brave the dangers of the sea, particularly broken water. His model was of tin (copper was recommended for the boat), rendered buoyant by cork, and incapable of being overset. For this ingenious model he received a guinea! Wouldhave was a native of North Shields, where he served his apprenticeship to a painter. He was distinguished for his fertility of invention and eccentricity of manners; but the versatility of his mind prevented him from rising in the world. Gay and careless, he cared not for the morrow. When some of his friends blamed him for leaving his model of the Life-boat at the Law House, when the committee seemed resolved not to adjudge him the reward, he replied, "Never mind, never mind; I know they have sense enough to adopt the good properties of my model; and though I am poor, if they refuse to give me the reward, I shall still have the satisfaction of being instrumental in saving the lives of some of my fellow creatures." Indeed he never thought of claiming any other reward. As honest as

he was poor, and almost as communicative as he was ingenious, he contented himself with the idea of being allowed to be the inventor by all the unprejudiced inhabitants of Shields. The idea of the peculiar construction he adopted as his model, was suggested to him, as he stated to a friend, by the circumstance of a woman at the Field-House Well, asking him to assist her to put a skeel of water on her head. She had a piece of a broken wooden dish floating on the water, which he observed floated with the points upwards. He turned it over several times and remarked that it always righted itself. Like Archimedes he cried out "I have found it." The honours and rewards, however, were lavished upon another, and Wouldhave died poor and neglected.—*G. Pringle's MS. Mackenzie and Ross' Dur. &c.*

1821 (September 28).—Died, in the Dog Bank, Newcastle, Barbara Humble, in her 101st year.—*Local Papers.*

September.—The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, received from Thomas Coates, esq., of Haydon-bridge, in Northumberland, who had returned overland from India, the valuable present of a very fine Egyptian mummy, in perfect preservation, and of great beauty. During a visit which Mr. C. paid to Gournou, the burial-place of ancient Thebes, in Upper Egypt, the mummy was dug from its sepulchre by an old Arab. Of him he procured it, and brought it to England. When received, it was in the original case or coffin, on the lid of which is carved a very beautiful female face.—*Ibid.*

September.—This month, the lord bishop of Durham (Barrington) presented an elegant portrait of himself to the Newcastle Infirmary. It is placed at the east end of the hall of that institution, between the portraits of bishop Butler and bishop Benson. The west end is decorated with the portraits of sir Walter Blackett, bart., by Reynolds; Matthew Ridley, esq., by Webb; and William Ingham, esq., by Nicholson.—*Ibid.*

October 1.—The Clergy Jubilee school, on the east side of the Carliol croft, Newcastle, which was erected in commemoration of the bishop of Durham attaining the fiftieth year of his prelacy, was opened for instruction, and a number of scholars admitted. The rev. Mr. Vicar, rev. Mr. Moises, rev. Mr. Parkin, and the rev. Mr. Griffith, attended to take the admissions; and the children being all neatly attired, and accompanied by their parents, the sight was truly gratifying. The funds not being sufficient to carry the purpose of the subscribers into full effect, the girls and boys belonging to the old-established Free schools of St. Nicholas' parish were removed to the new school, and the whole are now taught on Dr. Bell's plan, by one master and mistress.—*Ibid.*

October 17.—The foundation stone of a New Scotch Church for

the congregation of the rev. John Smellie, was laid in a suitable piece of ground, at the western extremity of Northumberland-court, to front into Blackett street. May 17th, it was opened for divine service, when an impressive sermon was delivered by the rev. Dr. Hodgson, of Blantyre, in Scotland. As this chapel was not in line with Blackett street, the original brick front was taken down in the year 1828, and a stone front with pinnacles erected to line with the street.—*Local Rec.*

1821 (Oct. 18).—Lambton park races were first established by John George Lambton, esq., (late lord Durham), at his seat near Chester-le-street.—*Local Papers.*

October 19.—A serious accident happened at Nesham's colliery, at Newbottle, on the river Wear. One of the brattices erected to close up an old working, having been broken into to obtain more air, a current of choke-damp issued from the perforation, which proved fatal to six of the workmen.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—A dreadful explosion took place in Wallsend colliery (Russell's), by which fifty-two men lost their lives. The explosion shook the ground like an earthquake, and made the furniture dance in the surrounding houses. This alarming the neighbourhood, the friends and relatives hurried to the spot, when a heart-rending scene of distress ensued. The greatest exertions were instantly made by Mr. Buddle, the viewer, who as soon as it was practicable, descended with his assistants, when a most melancholy scene presented itself. At the time of the explosion there were fifty-six men in the pit, of which number four only survived. The bodies of the deceased were most dreadfully scorched, and many of them most strangely distorted. Forty-six of the bodies were buried at Wallsend, fourteen of whom, being relations, were buried in one grave; some of the remainder were buried at the Ballast hills, and some at Wallsend old church, amidst sorrowing spectators.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—An explosion took place in Felling colliery, by which six human beings were deprived of existence.—*Ibid.*

November 30.—At night, a tremendous gale commenced at Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which committed great ravages. About three o'clock on the following morning, the chimney of a house in Johnson's chare, in Sandgate, Newcastle, fell through the roof, and a poor old widow, named Elizabeth Robson, 86 years of age, was killed in her bed, by the end of a broken beam falling on her neck. A little boy, her grandson, who lay in the same bed, was happily rescued without injury. Great damage was done in the lower part of the town, as appeared by the quantities of broken bricks and tiles that were lying about the streets and lanes in every direction. One of the

wands of St. Ann's mill was broken, and the paling of the miller's garden thrown down. The walls of two new houses building in Bridge-street, opposite Higham-place, were blown down, a great part of which fell inwards upon the joists which were broken to pieces, and the whole exhibited a heap of ruins. In the garden of Hugh Harrison, esq., near Chimney mills, several yards of wall, with rails on the



CHIMNEY MILLS, FROM THE TOWN MOOR, NEWCASTLE.

top, were blown over. The Methodist chapel at Kenton, which was used as a school, had the roof blown off, and two of the windows blown in. In Gateshead, part of the front of a house fell into the street with great violence. A stack of chimnies fell and broke through the roof of Mrs. Ludlow's house, in the Back-lane, and lodged in the garret, which was fortunately boarded, or the Misses Ludlow, who slept in the room beneath, would probably have been killed. A window in Mr. Price's glass manufactory, fronting the river, was blown in entirely, and forced to the further end of the apartment. By the violence of the hurricane much other damage was done.—*Local Papers*.

1821 (Dec. 4).—At a numerous meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, presented for the purpose of being preserved in their repository, the original safety lamp, as it is described in the Transactions of the Society of Arts, for 1813, and which first called the attention of philosophers, and of the proprietors of coal mines, to the subject.—*Ibid*.

December 10.—At the anniversary of the Royal Academy, the silver medal, with the Discourses of Barry, Opie, and Fuseli, were presented to Mr. Andrew Morton, a native of Newcastle, for the best

copy in the school of painting, from a "Madona and Child," by Raphael.—*Local Rec.*

1821 (Dec. 20).—A spacious and neat chapel built by the congregation under the pastoral charge of the rev. Israel Craig, was opened for public worship at Lowick, in Northumberland. This is one of the most ancient, if not the first presbyterian congregation, that was established in the north of England. It was originally formed by the rev. Luke Ogle, minister of Berwick, who, having resigned his charge there in 1661, in consequence of the act of uniformity, retired to his paternal estate at Bowson. His excellent character brought many to hear his ministrations privately; afterwards a chapel was built near to where Barmoor castle now stands. The congregation increasing, a large one was built at Lowick, about the year 1741, which falling to decay, this chapel was erected for the accommodation of that society.—*Ibid.*

December 23.—Died, at Gateshead, aged 64 years, Mrs. Frances Elizabeth King, relict of the rev. Richard King, M. A., rector of Worthen, Salop, and of Steeple Mordon, in Cambridgeshire, and third daughter of the late sir Francis Bernard, bart. This lady was the authoress of several useful and popular works; in particular "The Beneficial Effects of the Christian Temper on Domestic Happiness," "Female Scripture Characters," "The Rector's Memorandum Book," and a "Tour in France, in 1802." Mrs. King had been during her residence in Gateshead, most actively employed in visiting and relieving the sick and necessitous poor, having established two societies for that purpose; she also founded and supported at her own expense, a Sunday school, at St. Edmund's chapel, for educating poor children in Christian principles. Upon the death of her husband in 1810, Mrs. King retired to Gateshead, near the residence of her two married daughters (Mrs. Collinson, rectory, Gateshead, and Mrs. Baker, rectory, Whitburn).—*Ibid.*

Same day, and only two or three hours after Mrs. King, died at Usworth-house, aged 70 years, Mrs. Peareth. This is the more remarkable, as this lady was the coadjutor of Mrs. King, in acts of charity and benevolence.—*Ibid.*

1821.—Population returns.—

County of Durham.....	207,673.
— Northumberland.....	198,965.
— Newcastle.....	43,577.

Died, at Morpeth, Mr. William Robson, a severe poetical satirist, and author of several poetical pamphlets and miscellaneous essays and the publisher of "The Poetical Works of the celebrated and ingenious Thomas Whittell" printed at Newcastle in 1815, was also for

some time schoolmaster at Cambo, but removed to Morpeth. Mr. Robson had long expected to receive the original manuscript of Whittell's poems from Mr. Robert Codling, a native of Whelpington, who had settled as a planter at Rock Spring, Rio Bueno, Jamaica, but was surprised to find that the person to whose care it was entrusted had confided it to hands who had transcribed it, and were printing it. He, however, with great promptness and vigour, recovered the manuscript, copied it, and in a few weeks published it, but allowed many of its course indecencies to be softened or omitted, though a far too plentiful sprinkling of impurity was suffered to remain in it.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1821.—This year an act of parliament was obtained “for making and maintaining a Railway or Tramroad, from the river Tees at Stockton to Witton-park colliery, with several branches therefrom, all in the county of Durham.”—*Local Papers.*



In this year there was commenced in Newcastle, a series of elegantly printed publications entitled “The Fisher’s Garlands,” which have been continued annually up to the present time (1843), and a complete set now forms a very respectable octavo volume. They are all written to popular North country airs, and each Garland is embellished with a beautiful angling vignette, engraved by the celebrated Bewick, or some other able artist. The following gentlemen have contributed to the collection, viz. Robert Roxby, Thomas Doubleday, William Green, Stephen Oliver, Wm. Gill Thompson, &c. The woodcut that precedes this article is one of the vignettes used in the series, by the editor (Mr. Wm. Garret) who has lately furnished a general title for the volume, running thus;—“A Collection of Right Merrie Garlands for North Country Anglers.”—*MS. Col.*

1822 (Jan. 1).—The town of Berwick, was first lighted with gas,

under the direction and superintendence of Mr. Joseph Glynn, of Newcastle.—*Mackenzies Northd.*

1822 (Jan. 3).—The seat of sir J. Astley, bart. at Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, was totally destroyed by fire. The accident was occasioned by a beam in one of the bedroom chimneys taking fire. Fortunately the steward had sufficient presence of mind to order the corridor, which united the wings to the body of the house, to be instantly detached, by which means the two former were saved. Not one of the valuable marble chimney-pieces and statues, executed by Italian masters, was saved from the flames. This magnificent structure was from a design of sir John Vanburgh,—*Mon. Mag.*

January 21.—About five o'clock in the evening, an explosion of gas took place in the shop of Mr. Simpson, grocer, Quayside, Newcastle, occasioned by a candle having been imprudently held near the connecting pipe, which had been injured as was supposed by rats. The shock was very great, and burst the counter under which the pipe was placed, into splinters, forced twenty squares of glass from the windows and considerably shook the adjoining premises. Mr. Simpson, his boy, and a labourer, were all thrown down by the shock.—*Local Rec.*

January 22.—As James Miller, the Warkworth carrier, was coming into Newcastle, seated upon the fore part of his cart, he was shot dead by a musket ball, which entered his head at the right temple, and traversing the brain, was extracted from within the skin behind the left ear. Three young men were that morning amusing themselves by shooting at a target placed against the outside of the west wall of the bull-park, on the Town moor, and it appeared that a shot had been fired which had gone over the wall, ranged the park from west to east, and crossing the turnpike, had struck the unfortunate man, who, in a few minutes after, was found dead on the road, he having fallen from his seat. After a patient investigation of all the circumstances, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Thomas Burnett, who had been sworn to as one of the party. At the assizes the jury confirmed the verdict of the inquest, and Mr. Justice Bailey condemned in very severe terms the too frequent practice of firing near public highways, thereby endangering the lives of his majesty's subjects. As this practice was illegal, he enjoined the magistrates and police to be very vigilant in bringing such offenders to justice. From the respectability of the gentlemen who were called to speak to Mr. B's character, he was discharged on entering into recognizances, himself in £100., and four sureties of £50. each for his appearance at the next assizes, then to receive the judgment of the court. He was brought up at the next assizes, and fined £10.—*Ibid.*

1822 (Feb. 2).—A most tempestuous wind, accompanied with heavy rain, began to blow from the south-west, and continued with little intermission till the morning of the following day, when it abated. The rain caused a considerable flood in the rivers Tyne, Wear, and Tees. At Newcastle, the fury of the wind drove the water forward with extraordinary violence, particularly against the bridge over which the spray was carried to a great distance. The low lands to the westward were all flooded. Near Shields, James Watson, a wherryman, was washed out of a boat and drowned, leaving a wife and family. A sailor, belonging to the *Hope*, of North Shields, fell out of a sculler boat, in trying to clear it from a hawser, on which it had been driven, and was lost. Another boat was upset, but the persons aboard of it were all fortunately saved. At Sunderland much damage was done by the falling of chimneys, also to the roofs of houses. Many ships and keels in the river were driven from their moorings and much injured by the effects of the gale, but no lives were lost. At Chester-le-street the Wear was so swollen by the rains, that it extended above the arch of the new bridge, which is more than a quarter of a mile from the channel of the river; the whole intermediate space was a complete sheet of water, by which much injury was sustained. At Durham, a stack of chimneys on the house of Miss Wharton, of the North Bailey, was blown down, and fell through the roof into a room of the upper story, in which were two servant maids, who had a most providential escape from destruction. On hearing a loud rumbling



PART OF FRAMWELLGATE BRIDGE, DURHAM (1817).

noise, they rushed into a corner of the room, and a moment afterwards the chimneys fell through the ceiling on the floor, at a few inches from the side of a bed where one of them had been sitting. In Claypath, a nail manufacturer was at work, and another man was sitting beside him, both at about a yard's distance from the gable end, which was blown down, but luckily it fell outwards. Much other damage was done to roofs of houses, &c. It was supposed that the river Wear rose twelve feet above its ordinary height; its banks were overflowed, and the low lands completely inundated. Two horses and a cow were seen floating down that river. The Tees began to rise at nine o'clock on Saturday evening, and during a moonlight night many of the inhabitants of Stockton were employed in removing their property to their upper floors. The water continued rising till ten on Sunday morning, and then stood seven feet deep in the main street. The morning was beautifully calm, and the view from the high grounds of Egglescliff was singularly grand; the Tees had become an immense smooth silver lake, on which boats were plying, and in the midst of which the town of Yarm seemed immersed. After remaining stationary nearly two hours, the flood began to retire, and the streets were nearly free from water by five in the afternoon.—On Saturday evening the road from Croft bridge to Darlington was impassable, and the mail on Sunday morning passed through Hurworth: the water stood fifteen feet at Croft-bridge.—*Surtees, &c.*

1822 (Feb. 15).—Died, at Blaydon, Mr. J. Morrison, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 28.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Esther Marshall, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 28.—About twelve o'clock at night, while two men and two boys were ascending the engine pit at Burradon colliery, and had got a little way from the bottom, melancholy to relate, by some accident, the rope gave way, which falling upon them, killed them all. It appeared in evidence on the coroner's inquest, that the rope was quite a good one, and such as would have worked six months, and that the part which broke had only been subject to wear about a month, from which it was inferred, that it must have met with some accident which had nearly separated it, and had consequently given way when the individuals got upon it. Verdict, *accidental death*.—*Ibid.*

March 3.—A new chapel for the Primitive Methodists, was opened for divine service at Darlington, when upwards of one thousand persons attended; the foundation stone was laid October 16th, 1821.—*Ibid.*

March 5.—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. M. Stanton, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

1822 (March 7).—A dreadful fire broke out in the earthenware manufactory of Mr. Wood, at Heworth shore, near Gateshead, and in spite of the utmost exertions, the whole fabric, excepting Mr. Wood's dwelling-house, was reduced to ashes. Several cottages surrounding the pottery were also burnt down, and great loss of furniture was sustained by the poor inmates.—*Local Papers*.

March 18.—Henry Anderson, a pitman, of Old Painshier, was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for a rape.—*Ibid*.

March 20.—Mark Lawson, and William Currie, were executed in front of the Gaol quay, at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences, for a highway robbery.—*Ibid*.

March 23.—“The Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye,” was first opened in Brunswick-place, Newcastle. It was afterwards removed to Prudhoe street, and thence to Saville-row. Messrs. T. M. Greenhow and John Fife, surgeons, took upon themselves the expense of commencing this Ophthalmic Infirmary, which is supported by the annual subscriptions of a few benevolent individuals; and it has been ascertained that during a period of twenty-one years, it has afforded a greater amount of relief, in proportion to its limited funds, than any other similar institution in this kingdom; not less than 17,000 persons having been cured or greatly relieved since its establishment.—*Report, &c.*

March 28.—Died, at Ritton, Northumberland, Mr. Samuel George, aged 100 years. It is remarkable, that after eight years total blindness, he recovered and enjoyed his sight for six years previous to his death.—*Local Papers*.

This month, while Mr. Carr was ploughing in a field in front of Stagshaw house, near Corbridge, he encountered a large flat square stone, which, on being removed, was found to cover the mouth of a cavern about four feet deep, three feet long, and two feet and a half wide, cut in the native rock. This rude tomb enclosed a small antique urn, composed of clay and sand, uncovered and coarsely ornamented; it contained a few ordinary sized teeth, in perfect preservation; the mouldering remains of a skull; a small heart-shaped amulet of grey slaty stone, perforated for suspension; and a tongue-shaped piece of flint, probably an arrow-head. There was no inscription on the stones; no coins were found, nor any means of ascertaining the date.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

April 6.—George Wilson, the celebrated pedestrian of Newcastle, then in his 56th year, commenced the performance which he had previously announced, viz.—to walk ninety miles in twenty-four successive hours, on the town moor at that place. The spot selected was half-a-mile on the east side of the race ground. He started at twelve

o'clock at noon, and concluded his laborious task ten minutes before twelve o'clock on the following day, notwithstanding the night was stormy, and showers of sleet, rain and hail, rendered the ground very slippery. At the conclusion of the feat, the pedestrian carried the box himself among the assembled crowd to receive the gifts of his friends. He was brought into Newcastle in a chaise and four, at the expense of one of his patrons, with colours flying, and the bells greeted his achievement with several merry peals.—*Local Papers*.



GEORGE WILSON.

May 7.—The first stone of the New Jerusalem Temple, in Percy-street, Newcastle, was laid in due order. The rev. James Bradley performed the usual ceremony; then, standing upon the stone, offered up a prayer that the undertaking might be crowned with success. The names of the subscribers, and a record of the object of the building, hermetically sealed in a glass phial, were deposited in the foundation stone. February 16, 1823, it was opened for worship, when the rev. S. Noble, of London, delivered three impressive discourses, illustrative of the doctrines of that church.—*Ibid*.

May 8.—Died, Matthew Russell, of Brancepath castle, and of Hardwicke, esq., vice-lieutenant of the county of Durham, only son of William Russell, of Brancepath castle, esq., who was one of the

richest commoners in England. He represented Saltash in several successive Parliaments, and died most sincerely respected and lamented.—*Sharp's Burg. of Durham.*

1822 (May 16).—Mr. Kent exhibited his marine velocipede upon the river Tyne. Being ascension day, and the weather very fine, he fired his musket, and performed a variety of evolutions with much ease and dexterity, to the great delight of a large concourse of spectators. June 3rd. Mr. Kent exhibited his apparatus at Sunderland, to at least 20,000 spectators.—*Local Papers.*

May 24.—The Northumberland Flax-mill, at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. Clarke, Plummer and Co., was discovered to be on fire, supposed to have arisen from a flake of soot flying out of the engine chimney into an open window in a garret, where flax and tow were deposited, which took fire, and were instantly consumed. The manufactured goods in the rooms below were saved, but the flames were not got under until the reeling-room and the machinery therein, with the floors of the garret and store-room were entirely burnt.—*Ibid.*

Same day, an act for building a new gaol and house of correction in Newcastle, and another act for facilitating the collection of certain tolls payable to the mayor and burgesses of the same place, received the royal assent.—*Ibid.*

May 25.—A bull was baited at Cullercoats sands, near Tynemouth.—*Ibid.*

May 28.—A bull was baited at Sunderland, when a poor man, named Simon Thornton, was thrown down by the crowd, and had his leg broken, of which he afterwards died. Several bull baitings had recently taken place at Sunderland.—*Local Rec.*

May 29.—A fire broke out in the Sunderland brewery, belonging to Messrs. Fenwick and Co., which threatened destruction to the building and the neighbouring houses. However, by timely assistance it was got under, but with considerable damage to the interior of the building, and the property therein.—*Local Papers.*

May 31.—In consequence of information to the excise officers of Newcastle, an illicit distillery was discovered in the waste of an old coal mine, in a field near Fenham Hall, adjoining the Town-moor. The mine appeared to be one of the most ancient in that part of the country, and was surrounded by furze and underwood. At the bottom of the shaft, which was gained by a gradual descent of several yards, was a small aperture like the mouth of an oven, which could only be entered by crawling; this led to a large apartment in the mine, wherein were found two stills, with about 200 gallons of wash, and a complete distillery apparatus, valued in all at about £50. It appear-

ed to have been abruptly abandoned for fear of detection. A long chimney, built with brick, conveyed the smoke into the old workings, whence the neighbouring pits had a draught. The coal of the mine supplied the fuel necessary for the work; water was also found upon the spot. As soon as the discovery was known, hundreds of persons visited the place, many of whom were induced to explore "*The Smuggler's Hole*," as it was now called, and some who ventured into it had to stay much longer than they calculated on. About four o'clock on the morning of the 6th of June, three young men, to gratify their curiosity, ventured in about a mile, it was supposed, from the entrance. They had provided themselves with candles, which they considered sufficient for their purpose; they had, however, proceeded too far, and not having marked their way, were unable to retrace their steps, and their candles being nearly consumed, they were reduced to the necessity of making a fire with a hammer handle (which they had with them for the purpose of knocking off petrifications) and some pieces of coal which they found in the place. As the day advanced their friends became alarmed for their safety, and about twelve o'clock, some pitmen coming to the place, kindly offered their assistance, and, after some time, found the young men, who had been listening with much anxiety to hear the approach of any deliverer. They had not followed these friendly men far, when he who carried the candle stumbled, and they were again in total darkness; and such was the difficulty of their situation, that even with these experienced guides, they were obliged to continue in this dreary cavern several hours longer, when other two pitmen proceeded in, and extricated the whole about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, the young men having been under ground without any food upwards of twelve hours. The roof and floor of the cavity were covered with very curious petrifications, called stalactites, formed by the drippings of water. Several other persons were liberated by pitmen, so that it became necessary to build up the aperture; but such was the curiosity of the public, that the mason work was soon demolished.—*Local Rec.*

1822 (June 5.)—Died, at the Grove, near Durham, of a severe illness, aged 64, George Stephen Kemble, esq. son of Mr. Roger Kemble, and brother of Messrs. John and Charles Kemble, and of Mrs. Siddons, all of great theatrical celebrity. His mother, too, was an actress; and it is remarkable, that she played the part of *Anna Bullon* on the very night that Stephen Kemble was born, which was just at the time when, as *Queen*, she was supposed in the play to have given birth to the princess Elizabeth. He was born at Kingstown, in the county of Hereford, May 3, 1758; was put apprentice to Mr. Gibbs, surgeon, at Coventry; but preferring the stage, after a course of

practice in England, Scotland, and Ireland, he appeared at Covent garden, Sept. 24, 1783. In November following he married Miss Satchell, a favourite actress of the same theatre. Leaving Covent garden in the following year, after performing some time at the Haymarket, Mr. Kemble became a manager himself; and conducted, successively, the theatres of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, and several others, with good success. He was afterwards acting manager of Drury lane theatre. To a mind well stored with the beauties of our dramatic authors, and possessed of a rich fund of entertaining anecdotes, Mr. Kemble united a kind and social disposition. On the stage, he was chiefly remarkable for playing sir John Falstaff, it is said, without stuffing. The last time he appeared on the stage was for the benefit of a part of his family, on May 20th, when he performed *Sir Christopher Curry* in Inkle and Yarico. He was then apparently in his usual state of health, but in a few days afterwards he was attacked by inflammation in his bowels, which terminated his mortal existence. Mr. Kemble, who was a very corpulent man, had retired for some years from the exercise of the laborious profession of an actor. In many characters he was confessedly unrivalled; and it is no small commendation, that he was considered by the late Mr. Sheridan to be the best declaimer he had ever heard on or off the stage. He was also possessed of considerable literary talents, having written various addresses, songs, &c. &c. which appeared from time to time in different journals. Mr. Kemble published, "Odes, Lyrical Ballads, and Poems, 8vo. 1809, with a portrait. June 11th, his remains were interred in the chapel of the Nine Altars, at the east end of Durham cathedral, on the north side of the shrine of St. Cuthbert. —*Gent's Mag.* &c.

1822 (June).—This month, the antiquities represented on the two succeeding pages were discovered at the station of Housesteads or Borcovicus, Northumberland. Some workmen who were employed by Mr. Gibson, the proprietor of the station, to build a dry stone fence, and had permission from him to dig up for that purpose any loose stones or old walls, on condition that they neither used nor destroyed any that were inscribed or curiously carved; after removing a few loose stones, near the surface, they struck upon the top of the altar (2). The perfect state of its finely carved horns and incense basin, induced them to remove the soil and rubbish from around it with caution; and in the progress of this curious and careful investigation, they found the spot in which they were working, bounded by four walls of common masonry. These walls faced the four chief points of the winds and formed a rectangular area of twelve feet eight inches, from north to south, by ten feet from east to west, and having in the west end a recess



3.



1.



2.



8.



9.



4.



11.



10.

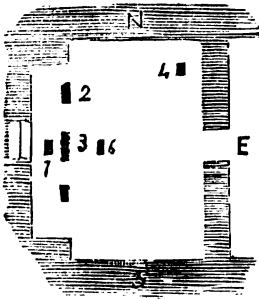


6.



7.

thirty inches deep and seven feet long. The east wall had a doorway in it. The whole seemed to have been built under the surface, as some of the walls on the outside were of very rough workmanship.



The accompanying plan will enable the reader not only to obtain a better idea of the cave; but shews the situation which the altars occupied. The floor was paved with thick sandstone slates of irregular sizes and shapes. The two large inscribed altars (1 and 2) and the stone bearing the signs of the zodiac (3) were still standing in their first situation, their backs being nearly in a line with the outside of the recess, in which there were remaining steps, as of a passage through the west wall. No. 4 also appeared to occupy its original place; but the sixth was lying on its face before the zodiac. The seventh was on one side, immediately behind it, and on a sort of pedestal of hewn stone thirty inches square; but very slightly raised above the level of the floor. The fragments 8, 9, 10, 11, were found near No. 6. with which they had originally been connected. This then was an artificial cave, dedicated to the worship of Mithras, and in itself, and the antiquities found in it, affords one of the finest and most complete illustrations of the nature of that worship of any that has hitherto been discovered. The cave itself seems to have been a low contemptible hovel, dug out of a hill side, lined with dry walls and covered with turf or straw; for the ruins of its walls and roof had not been sufficient to hide the altars from the action of the weather. The slender rim of the zodiac was broken; but the altars were found standing upright in their original position with their heads weathered, apparently by long exposure to the atmosphere. They were indeed only a few inches below the present surface, while their lower parts were as fresh and perfect as on the day they were turned off the bench of the mason who carved them. The rubbish in the interior consisted chiefly of a loamy vegetable mould, intermixed with the roots of trees, and covered with peat earth, together with some of the rough stones which had fallen from the rude walling. A spring was an essential requisite to a Mithraic cave, and the waters that rose in this were drained from its doorway into an adjoining letch in 1809, when extensive foundations of apartments, that had communicated internally with the cave, were ransacked for stones for a field wall on the western side of the estate. Some fragments of vessels of red earthenware were found among the rubbish near the altar, probably parts of the fictilia that belonged to the temple of Mithras. These foundations have given rise to an

idea that some larger temple had stood here, and that this was a mere attachment thereto. The following description in Homer's *Odyssey*, of the cave of the nymphs in the Isle of Ithica, shews the high antiquity of cavern worship, Though brief, it is very full and forcible:—

A broad-leaved olive decks the haven's head
Near to a cave, how lovely ! but how dark !
The holy place of nymphs, the Naiads called.
There goblets are, and jars of marble made,
Wherein the honey bee constructs its cells.
There too, long looms of stone, on which the nymphs
Sea purple garments weave, a wondrous sight.
Fountains it has eternal, and two gates—
The northern one to men admission gives,
That to the south is more divine—a way
Untrod by men—to immortals only known.

Mithraism was a species of Sabaism which in old times prevailed from China through Asia and Europe, as far as Britain. During the reign of Commodus the former had become common among the Romans ; and, in the time of Severus, had extended over all the western part of the empire. It was imported from Syria, and synonymous with the worship of Baal and Bel in that country ; for, in it, as in the mysteries of Osiris in Egypt, and of Apollo in Greece and Rome, the sun was the immediate object of adoration. We will now proceed to describe the sculptures and inscriptions found in the cave.

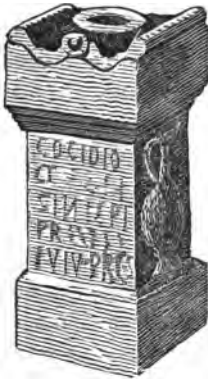
The first is translated thus “Publius Proculus, a centurion, in due performance of a vow to the god the Sun, the invincible Mithras, lord of ages—their highnesses Gallus and Volusinus being Consuls,”—which office these joint emperors filled in 253, in which year they were slain. The top of this altar had suffered so much from the weather, that the words *DEO SOLI* on its capital, were nearly effaced : but its body was fresh and perfect as on the day on which it was set up. The second is translated thus :—“To the god the Sun, the unconquerable Mytras, lord of ages ; Litorius Pacatianus, a consular beneficiary, for him and his willingly and duly, according to a vow, erected this altar.” Excepting some slight injury in its head, it is in the finest preservation, and bears on one side the patera and on the other the chalice. It is four feet and seven inches high. The third and most important remain is that which was found between the two already described. It consists of a bust of Mithras seated between two hemispheres, surrounded by the twelve signs of the Zodiac, and holding in his right hand, opposite Taurus, a sword,—and in his left, opposite Virgo, a torch. The signs commence after the Roman manner at

Aquarius or January, and end with Capricorn or December. The stone which bears the whole when perfect has been four feet high and two and a half feet broad. It is much thinned away towards the upper part of the Zodiac, probably to make it less top heavy, and less likely to be overturned. This thinness however has made it liable to be broken, and after its discovery it was in several pieces, and it wants



the part of the rim, which contained the sign Libra and part of Cancer, as here represented. The uplifted torch in one hand of Mithras denoted the rising of the sun above the lower hemisphere, and the sword in the other that he was coming forth as the Conqueror of Winter, while in a deeper sense they had reference to doctrines respecting the eternal essence of Deity, and the immortality of the human soul. This as well as the others found in the cave, are in the colonnade of the society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, and this tablet in particular has had its parts so far as they

exist, cemented in their original form. The fourth is an altar, seventeen inches high, the inscription nearly illegible. On its sides are the patera and the praefericulum.



4.

This was found without the cave and about ten feet from its east wall. The fifth was found at the north east corner of the cave, within its bounds. It was standing, with its back to the wall. The bust of the Sun on its capital has seven radii, around its head, and is in rude and very low relief. Indeed the whole altar, which is twenty inches high, is a very poor specimen of masonry. The inscription also is very rudely and inaccurately cut. It may be Englished thus:—"Hieronymus, performing a vow, freely and duly, dedicates this to the Sun." The sixth, eighth,

ninth, tenth, and eleventh figures represent portions of a great Taurine tablet which has formerly graced this cave. It had probably been broken up about twelve years previous to this discovery, and parts of it used as the cover of a drain near the place, where probably they may, on some day come to light. Of the five fragments which remain, the two largest when conjoined, measure nearly six feet in height. The larger of these bears one of the fore legs of the bull stretched out and above, a Mithras, habited in the usual Chlamys (or short floating cloak) and

Phrygian bonnet, with a lighted torch in his right hand, and the caduceus of Mercury in his left, symbols of his office of guardian of the gate of Cancer and conductor of souls from one of the constellations and the milky way, "because this is the place of the heavens where generation commences by which the world subsists." The lesser por-



tions of the tablet has over this Mithras, a lunette or symbol of the moon, who, according to Porphyry's comment, is the queen of generation and as such was denominated by the ancients both a bee and a bull; for the exaltation of the moon is in Taurus, and trees are generated from oxen on which account they are called "ox born" which name is likewise attributed to souls proceeding to generation." Of this interesting tablet, so much exists, and so many connective circumstances are deducible from these fragments, that we may safely form a conclusion that it greatly resem-

bled a similar tablet, which will afterwards be spoken of, and which will greatly assist us in forming an idea of the original appearance of the tablet of the Mithraic cave of Borcovicus. The seventh was found lying on a square pediment slightly elevated above the floor. It is a statue in the Mithraic dress, wanting its head, three feet high, and as the Genius of the Gate of Cancer, bearing the uplifted torch, but broken at the legs into two pieces. Why this genius should be represented both separately and on the great tablet, is not certainly known. Its left arm, and the upper part of the torch are also much mutilated. It is neatly executed in sandstone. A similar figure was found at Chester and is described by Pennant, so as to render the two almost identical. Mithraic antiquities have been found likewise at Cambeck fort, in Cumberland; and Mr. Macgregor has published an elaborate paper in the *Archæologia Æliana*, to prove that the Zodiac in the porch of Saint Margaret's church, at York, is of Roman origin, and a remnant of a temple of the Sun or Mithras there. Indeed Stukely, in the *Philosophical Transactions*, published a bas relief of Mithras slaying the bull, and other accompanying symbols, which have been republished in Gough's *Camden*: and the council of the Antiquarian Society have allowed the use of the following woodcut of one of these tablets from the works of Depuis, and engraved as an illustration of the

subject in the account of these antiquities published in their Transactions, at the time of their discovery.

In the uppermost compartment we have the sun at the gate of Capricorn seated in his quadriga: then an infant Mercury or Mithras entwined with the serpent. After this follow twelve altars—one for the Sun, another for the Moon, and two each for the summer and winter house of the five planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The winged youth, entwined with the serpent is Mithras in his prime, and the last figure, the Moon, in her biga, and her house



Cancer. The compartments on the left also represent Mithras at the Northern gate, with his uplifted torch, lighting souls through it into the world; and the Genius with an inverted torch, shews the way through the gate of Capricorn to region of the shades below. The two trees on each side of Mithras slaying the bull, are the two equinoxes, the vernal represented by the lighted torch, and the tree in leaf—the autumnal, by the extinguished torch, the tree in fruit, and the sign Scorpion; and Mithras slaying the bull—is the sun rising in his strength in the sign Taurus, and coming to subdue the ravages of the year and fecundate the earth with the blood of his sacrifices, “for

they assigned a congruous place to Mithras, near the equinoctial ; and hence he bears the sword of Aries, because this animal is martial, and is the sign of Mars : he is likewise carried in the Bull, the sign of Venus, because the bull as well as Venus is the ruler of Generation." Much curious information, in further illustration of this subject may be found in Hodgson's *Northumberland*, pt. 2. vol. iii. ; the *Transactions of the Antiquarian Society* ; Porphyry's "*De antro Nympharum*" appended to Taylor's *Proclus* ; and Montf. III., iii., ii, &c.

1822 (July).—A labourer who was employed winning stones in Stobcross-field, in the estate of Thrislington, in the parish of Bishop-Middleham, Durham, turned up with his pick-axe some broad lime-stone flags, scarcely 18 inches below the surface, and discovered lying beneath them a perfect human skeleton. On the right side, near the hip bone, lay the iron head apparently of a lance or javelin. This first discovery was on the highest ground of the field. Another skeleton was found about 20 yards to the north-west, with a smaller lance head, also of iron. Eight or nine other sepulchres containing human bones, were afterwards opened at various distances, but all apparently gathered round the crown of the field, where perhaps lay the chieftain of the race : in none of these were found any implement either of war or peace. The mode of sepulture was uniform and simple. The soil and marle, or soft limestone, had been cleared away to the depth of about two feet, and the skeleton lay on the level marle. On each side a row of large round stones was arranged, and on these were supported broad flags of limestone, which covered the deposit. The distance and regularity of the graves seem to forbid the supposition of their tenants having fallen in battle, but that it was the family burial-place of some early Saxon owner of the soil, before the conversion of his tribe to Christianity. In one deposit there were the remains either of a female or a very young person ; in another, the bones of a horse, and also some smaller animal, perhaps a dog, were found mingled with human remains. The graves were not dug east and west, but in various directions. The larger lance head measured nearly eight inches in length, and a little above one inch in diameter ; the smaller seven inches by nearly one inch in diameter. The teeth of the two skeletons near which the lance heads were found were quite perfect. Some small portions of wood were adhering to the larger lance head.
—*Surtees.*

July.—The owners of Hetton colliery having occasion to make a reservoir for water at the summit of Warden Law, a hill of considerable altitude in the county of Durham, at the depth of ten feet, the workmen discovered an oak tree, which measured seventy feet long, three feet in diameter at one end, and two feet at the other. The

branches extended thirty feet further, which made the whole length one hundred feet. The workmen bored down ten feet further, and found nothing but wood, but it was not dug out. A large quantity of nuts and nut-bushes was found, the former were very perfect. About the same time, as some quarrymen were laying bare a quarry belonging to the same owners, they discovered a human skeleton about three feet below the surface, with an old fashioned button and two breeches knee-buckles, which had probably been worn by the deceased.—*Local Rec.*

1822 (July 9).—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Benjamin Starkey, in his 65th year. This eccentric, well known by the name of *Captain Starkey*, being a free burgess, was for some time an inmate of the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor-chare, but previous to his death had been removed to the poor-house. Mr. Starkey, who was uncommonly polite, had a peculiarly smooth method of obtaining the loan of a halfpenny, and for which he was always ready to give his promissory note, which his creditors held as curiosities. His memoirs, written by himself, with a portrait and fac-simile of his hand-writing, were published in Newcastle, in 1818.—*Ibid.*



CHAPTER X.



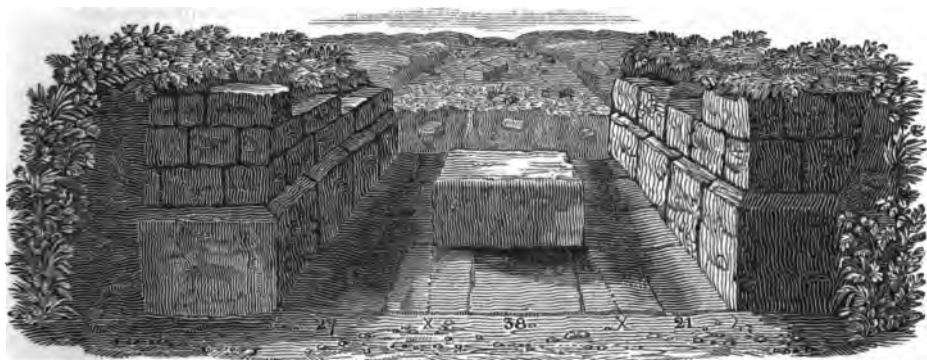
N the month of July, 1822, the workmen employed in digging for the foundations of the new gaol at Morpeth, found, at the depth of fifteen feet below the surface, many deers horns, and a cowrie shell, one and a half inch long umbilicated, faintly freckled with yellowish spots, fine brown spots on each side, and dark spots glazed over with white on the white part of the spire and margin; also large oak trees, and wood and nuts of the hazletree—remains unquestionably of antient woods that had grown upon the spot. In cutting through the wear of the mill, it appeared to have been heightened, as the bed of the river above it was filled up with gravel and sleck brought from the country above.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

July 11.—An adjournment of the general quarter sessions of the peace for the county of Northumberland, was held at Morpeth, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new gaol, house of correction, and sessions-house at Morpeth. About twelve o'clock, his grace the duke of Northumberland, lord-lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county, arrived at Mrs. Sunderland's, the Queen's Head inn, when, soon afterwards, the procession proceeded in due form to the site of the intended building. On arriving at the spot, the various coins of his majesty George IV. were placed in a glass vase, as also three beautiful coronation medals of gold, silver, and bronze, and a brass plate with a suitable inscription, were deposited in a cavity cut in the stone to receive them. A large and massy stone of one ton weight was then raised, and being lowered to its proper place, was adjusted and laid by his grace in the usual form. The silver trowel

was presented to his grace by the chairman, Thomas Clennell, esq., at the same time addressing his lordship in very appropriate terms. The duke then returned thanks to the numerous assemblage present, and to the magistrates in particular, for the compliment paid him in inviting him to lay the stone—that he always was particularly attentive to every wish to serve the county—that it gave him great pleasure to attend, as far as possible, to their wishes at all times—that he felt the greatest pleasure in learning from the chairman of the county, that the calendar for the ensuing assizes was only deformed by one capital offence, a great proof of the good morals of the county—and he was happy to say, he observed an increasing prosperity in the county at large. He concluded by trusting, that when the building was finished, it would be the only house in the county unoccupied. There was a large assemblage of ladies, filling a temporary gallery purposely erected for their accommodation, and well suited for a general view of the ceremony. The new gaol is situated on the south side of the Wansbeck, on the east side of the great north road, and under banks that overlook it from the south. Mr. Dobson, architect, Newcastle, was the successful candidate, for this great undertaking, which has been completed under his direction at the cost of £71,000. The whole of it has an outline of an octagonal form, stands upon three acres of ground, and consists of an outer wall from 20 to 30 feet high, a gateway, sessions house, chapel, house of correction, wards for debtors and felons, and a governor's house. It is in the castellated style of Edward the First, and like that of Caernarvon castle. The gateway is an imposing mass of building, 72 feet high, on the second floor of which is the sessions house or hall for county meetings, 92 feet by 64, and 41 feet high: it is an heptagonal semicircle, surrounded by a gallery, large enough to hold 3,500 persons. The ceiling of this and the other principal rooms are ribbed and vaulted in a style suited to the character of the exterior of the building. It was first used for a county meeting, when the measure of reform in parliament was brought forward in it in February, 1831, and for sessions in April following. All the cells on the ground floor, both of the gaol and house of correction, are vaulted and groined in very admirable work, done by Messrs King, Kyle, and Hall, masons, who, also, executed the masonry of the rest of the building in a masterly manner. It has been in use as a prison since November, 1828.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1822 (July 22).—The rev. John Hodgson had the rubbish partly removed from the western side of the southern gateway of the Roman station of Borcovicus, or Housesteads, and found the ground-work of the jamb on one side, and of the pillar on the other, formed of very large stones, bevelled on the upper bed to a scarcement of about three

inches. The passage-way was 7 feet 2 inches wide, and flagged with large squared freestones; but obstructed at two feet inwards by a stone about three feet long and broad, and one foot high, and carefully set in the flagging, which on each side of it was deeply worn by the feet of passengers. This apparent obstruction, he afterwards ascertained from the pivot holes in the floor against each wall, had been for the two leaves of a folding-door to shut against. The annexed sketch of the appearance of one-half of this gateway, as cleared from rubbish, was made by Mr. Hodgson from memory, and engraved in the account of the Mithraic antiquities found at this place in the preceding month, and published by the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



1822 (July 25).—Died, in London, Mr. John Emery, the celebrated actor, aged 45 years. Mr. Emery was a native of Sunderland, and was educated at Ecclesfield, in Yorkshire, where he doubtless acquired that knowledge of the dialect which obtained him so much celebrity. He may be said to have been born an actor, both his parents having followed that profession with some degree of provincial fame. In parts designedly written for him, he had no competitor; and Tyke (School of Reform) and Giles (Miller's Maid), in parts of which his acting was truly terrific and appalling, will long be remembered. Besides his histrionic powers, he was an excellent musician, a poet, and a painter: his drawings of coast scenery particularly, being much admired, and when offered for sale fetching high prices.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 25.—Robert Russell, of Newcastle, undertook to walk 101 miles in twenty-four successive hours, and completed this arduous task four minutes within the time. The spot chosen for this feat was the ground whereon George Wilson had exhibited. This was Russell's first pedestrian essay.—*Local Rec.*

August 6.—At a meeting of the literary and Philosophical society of Newcastle, it was agreed to purchase the celebrated Wycliffe

museum, late in the possession of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, which was to have been sold by public auction, but which had been purchased entire by private contract (for the purpose of offering it to the society), by G. T. Fox, esq., of Westoe, and some other spirited individuals. The thanks of the society were also voted to Mr. Fox, for the liberal manner in which he had accommodated the society in the conditions of the purchase. The collection contains nearly a complete list of British birds, more especially of the rarer kinds, with a very valuable selection of foreign birds, together with a curious collection of insects, shells, reptiles, minerals, and a great variety of miscellaneous curiosities. The preceding year Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, presented to this society a very fine collection of insects made at the Cape of Good Hope by C. Colcleugh, esq., which is so much the more interesting to the entomologist, as it is understood to be complete.* These form a valuable addition to the beautiful collection from Demerara, which had been presented to the society some time before by Major George Anderson, of Newcastle, and which were afterwards scientifically arranged by G. T. Fox, esq.—*Local Rec.*

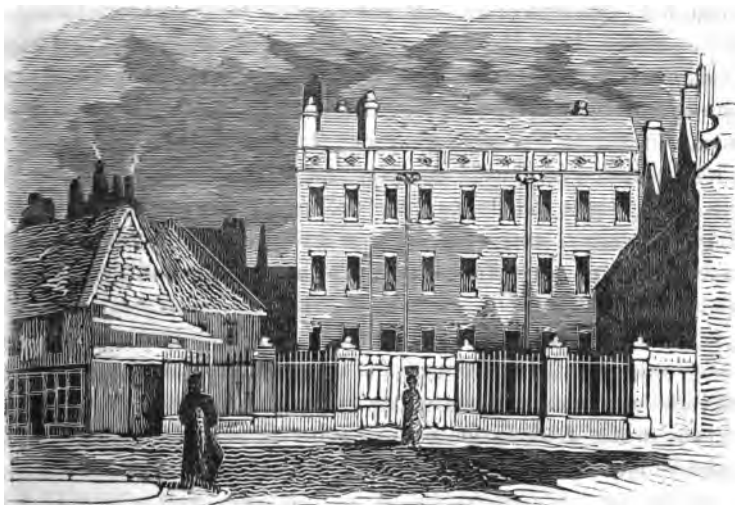
1822 (Aug. 8).—A spermaceti whale was killed off Linemouth, near Cresswell, Northumberland; it was 61 feet long, and 37 feet 4 inches in girth. The breadth of its tail was 14 feet; of its head, 10 feet 9 inches; and the space from the eyes to the nose 21 feet. The upper jaw projected 5 feet over the lower one, which had 2 rows of teeth, externally resembling ivory, but porous and ash coloured within. Its height, when first thrown on shore, was 12 feet; and it produced 9 tons and 158 gallons of oil. It was claimed by the proprietors of the land on each side of the Line; but the admiralty settled the dispute between the claimants by seizing the oil, and fixing their broad arrow upon the bones, which were latterly given up to Mr. Cresswell Baker, and removed into the pleasure grounds at Cresswell, where they will be long admired as objects of rarity and vastness of size. For several days after it was killed, immense crowds of people flocked from the adjacent country, and even from great distances to see it; and its stupendous size never failed to rivet the attention of all who viewed it.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

August 9.—Robert Peat, of Ravensworth, near Richmond, aged 50 years, was executed in front of the county courts at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for poisoning, by putting a quantity of laudanum into the broth of a relation named Robert Peat, at Darlington, from whom he had stolen his will.—*Local Papers.*

* It is due to Dr. Clanny to state that the Lar, figured at page 215, was presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, by that gentleman.

1822 (Aug. 13).—On the morning, after very tempestuous weather, the wind blowing with great violence from the W.S.W., and a good deal of sea getting up, the commodore felt it his duty to advise his majesty king George IV. (then on his voyage to Scotland) to anchor for shelter in Berwick roads, which was accordingly done at 9 A.M., the Royal Sovereign Yacht being in company. During the stay of the royal squadron in the roads, a loyal address from the inhabitants of Berwick was sent off, which was read to his majesty at the palace of Holyrood, and which was most graciously received.—*Local Papers*.

August 30.—His royal highness the duke of Sussex visited the city of Durham, where a masonic provincial grand lodge was held to receive him. A splendid procession took place, during which his royal highness was loudly cheered. He afterwards dined with the masons in their hall. On the following day his royal highness proceeded to Sunderland, by the river Wear, in company with Mr. Lambton, in that gentleman's barge. The ships in the harbour were decorated with flags, and the people loudly cheered him. On entering the carriage that awaited his arrival, the populace took the horses out, and drew him to the house of A. Fenwick, esq., where he partook of a cold collation. Previous to leaving Sunderland, his royal highness addressed the crowd, and thanked them for the kind reception with which they had honoured him.—September 2d, his royal highness honoured Newcastle with his presence, in order to lay the foundation stone of the new building for the literary and philosophical society in



House of Thomas Anderson, Esq., formerly occupying the site of the Library of the Literary and Philosophical Society, &c. (1820).

Westgate-street. At noon, his royal highness, in Mr. Lambton's carriage, drawn by six horses, accompanied by lady Louisa Lambton, Mr. Lambton, and Mr. Stephenson, reached Gateshead toll-bar, his suite following in other carriages, when the populace took out the horses, and drew the royal visitor down Gateshead, amidst the cheering of the multitude assembled on the occasion; his royal highness returned their salutes with great affability. On the arrival of the cavalcade at Tyne bridge, he was met by Alfred Hall, esq., sheriff of Newcastle, accompanied by a number of gentlemen, who welcomed the royal visitor on his entrance into that ancient and loyal town, to which he made a suitable reply. A salute of 21 guns was at this time fired from the castle, whilst the bridge for some minutes exhibited one solid mass of carriages and people. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Cuthbert Ellison, esq., the members for the town (who had accompanied the sheriff to pay their respects to his royal highness), got up in front of the carriage to usher in the duke; and sir Matthew addressed the populace, insisting that the people of Newcastle should now have the honour of drawing his royal highness, as he had passed the limits of the county of Durham. This was immediately done, and they proceeded to the mansion-house, when an address, previously voted to the noble duke by the common council, was read by the recorder, after which his royal highness was presented with the freedom of the town. The company then sat down to a cold collation. An especial grand lodge of ancient Free masons of England was held at the concert-room in the Bigg market. Between one and two o'clock, the different lodges in their official badges, accompanied by the insignia of their fraternity, proceeded in grand procession to the Mansion-house, and marched thence to the site of the building, which it reached a little before three o'clock. His royal highness took possession of a throne prepared for him; sir M. W. Ridley, bart. sat on his right hand, and J. G. Lambton, esq. on his left. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone then took place, amid the loud cheering of a great assemblage of people, who had been admitted by tickets, and for whose accommodation a secure scaffolding had been erected. A plate, with a suitable inscription, and an elegantly cut glass vase (which was presented for that purpose by Mr. Joseph Price), containing the coins of the reign of George IV., were deposited in a cavity in the stone. The large Assembly-room having been liberally granted by the committee of proprietors for the accommodation of his royal highness, nearly three hundred gentlemen assembled in it to dinner, about five o'clock, sir M. W. Ridley, bart., in the chair. About nine o'clock, the duke took his leave, and proceeded with sir M. W. Ridley, bart., to Blagdon. September 4th, his royal highness

passed through Alnwick, on his way to earl Grey's seat at Howick. A great concourse of people assembled to receive the royal visitor, and his carriage was drawn through the town by the populace, amid enthusiastic cheers, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the firing of cannon. His royal highness was very affable, and extremely pleased with the kind, hospitable, and enthusiastic reception with which he had been greeted during his visit to the north. September 9th, his royal highness passed through Newcastle on his way to Raby castle, whither he arrived the same day, on a visit to the earl of Darlington.

—*Local Papers.*

1822 (Sept. 10).—Died, at her house, in Union-street, Newcastle, after a short illness, Mrs. Sarah Hodgson, in her 63d year, printer and proprietor of the Newcastle Chronicle, by which event society suffered the loss of an upright and useful member; the place of her residence, an enlightened and indefatigable manager of several of its charitable institutions, particularly of the Lying-in hospital; her family, an affectionate and judicious parent; and an extensive circle, a most warm-hearted and active friend. September 15th, 1822, a funeral sermon, on occasion of the lamented death of Mrs. Hodgson, was preached in Hanover-square chapel, by the rev. William Turner.

—*Local Rec.*

September 23.—The first annual exhibition of the Northumberland institution for the promotion of the fine arts, took place in the rooms which had been prepared for the purpose, by Mr. T. M. Richardson, in Brunswick place, Newcastle, and many capital pictures from artists of first rate talent were exposed to public view. This exhibition continued annually untill the Northern Academy of Arts was built in Blakett-street.—*Ibid.*

September 27.—Died, at Low Farnham, Northumberland, Mrs. Catherine Green, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers.*

October 9.—Died, at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth, William Mills, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

October 24 and 25.—After a very severe gale, with thick fog, from the north-east, (but veering towards its conclusion, to the east and south of east), thousands of that handsome little bird, the Golden Crested Regulus (*Regulus Auricapillus*), were seen to arrive upon the sea-shore and sand-banks of the Northumbrian coast; many of them so fatigued by the length of their flight, or perhaps by the unfavourable shift of wind, as to be unable to rise again from the ground, and great numbers were in consequence caught or destroyed. This flight must have been immense in quantity, as its extent was traced through the whole length of the coasts of Northumberland and Durham. There appears little doubt of this having been a migration from the

more northern provinces of Europe, (probably furnished by the pine-forests of Norway, Sweden, &c.), from the circumstance of its arrival being simultaneous with that of large flights of the Woodcock, Fieldfare, and Redwing. A more extraordinary circumstance in the economy of this bird took place during the same winter, viz. the total disappearance of the whole tribe, *natives* as well as strangers, throughout Scotland and the north of England. This happened towards the conclusion of the month of January 1823, and a few days previous to the long-continued snow-storm so severely felt through the northern counties of England, and along the eastern parts of Scotland. The range and point of this migration are unascertained, but it must probably have been a distant one, from the fact of not a single pair having returned to breed, or pass the succeeding summer, in the situations they had been known always to frequent. Nor was one of the species to be seen till the following October, or about the usual time for our receiving an annual accession of strangers to our own indigenous birds.—*Selby's Brit. Orn.*

1822 (Oct. 24).—In addition to the inconvenience arising from the strike of the keelmen on the Tyne, a number of seamen proceeded from Shields up the river in boats, and took the crews from some of the vessels which were loading at the spouts. The mayor of Newcastle, Robert Bell, esq., proceeded down the river, in his barge, with a party of the volunteers and police, and took thirty-two of the rioters into custody, and carried them down to the Low Lights, at Shields, when thirty were put on board the king's cutter. A mob assembled on the sands, and demanded the liberation of the prisoners, which was refused, and the riot act was read by a Northumberland magistrate, soon after which the crowd dispersed. On the following day the prisoners were conveyed from the cutter in carts, under a strong military guard to the castle of Newcastle, to which place a number of refractory seamen, &c., followed the prisoners. Previous to their arrival, all the avenues leading to the castle were guarded by parties of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and dismounted troop, to prevent the admission of the anticipated crowd, and a powerful phalanx was placed in front of the castle gates. On the arrival of the party in the Castle-garth, the conduct of the mob was so outrageous, that the riot act was read by the right worshipful the mayor, and two of the ringleaders were taken into custody, one of whom was recognized as having been very active at Shields, while the prisoners were conveyed from the cutter to the carts. A military guard remained all night in the castle.—*Local Papers.*

A neat stone edifice for a school-house, was this year, erected in the village of Newburn, by the duke of Northumberland.—*Ibid.*



1822 (Oct 29).—Died suddenly, at his house, Villiers-street, Bishopwearmouth, aged 72 years, T. Collingwood, esq. M. D., member of the Medical Society, London; Board of Agriculture, and several other learned institutions, many of which owe their origin to him. Dr. Collingwood was born at Bates' cross, near Berwick, on the 7th of July, 1751, and was lineally descended from sir David Collingwood, of Brandon, a branch of the ancient and renowned

Collingwoods of Northumberland. As an agriculturist and mathematician he ranked high; his communications with the board on rural affairs were much esteemed; indeed, in a literary point of view, his productions were varied and numerous. Medicine, poetry, agriculture, and even the drama, at times employed his pen.—*Local Papers*.

November 2.—Half yearly statute hirings for farmers' servants were established in Sunderland, to be held on the first and second Saturdays in November, and the first and second Saturdays in May, in every year. The first was held on the above day.—*Ibid*.

November 5.—A cattle market was established in Sunderland, to be held fortnightly on the Tuesday.—*Ibid*.

November 18.—The Hetton coal company effected the first shipment of coals at their newly erected staith on the banks of the river Wear at Sunderland. The waggon-way, which extends over a space of eight miles from the colliery to the river, and in its course crosses Warden Law (one of the highest hills in this part of the country), was crowded with spectators to witness the first operations of the powerful and ingenious machinery employed for conveying the coal-waggons. Five of Mr. George Stephenson's patent travelling engines, two sixty horse power fixed reciprocating engines, and five self-acting inclined planes (all under the direction of Mr. Robert Stephenson, the company's resident engineer) simultaneously performing their various and complicated offices, with a precision and exactness of the most simple machinery, exhibited a spectacle at once interesting to science, and encouraging to commerce. After the business of the day, the owners of the colliery, with about fifty of their friends, dined at Miss Jowsey's, the Bridge inn, Bishopwearmouth.—*Ibid*.

November.—This month, about a mile south of Whitburn, in the county of Durham, the sand having been removed by the tide, the stumps of seven trees were seen at about one hundred yards in the sea, measuring from high-water mark. The largest was described as about six feet in diameter, and was clearly in the situation in which it had

grown. There was a considerable accumulation of vegetable matter round them, containing leaves, nuts, and broken pieces of branches; next below this was a light blue clay, in which the trees appeared to have grown.—*Arch. Æliana*.

1822 (Dec. 10).—The beginning of this month, the keelmen of the Tyne resumed their labours, after a suspension of about ten weeks, under alleged grievances which the coal owners had determined to resist. At periods during the *stick* they were very refractory, but by the vigilance of the navy and military employed, together with the prompt assistance of the magistracy, their turbulence was suppressed. The Swan cutter was moored on the south side of the river, opposite to Newcastle quay, and fired her morning and evening gun. This was supposed to be the only instance of a ship of war having been so far up the Tyne since the rebellion in 1745-6, when troops were landed at Newcastle from king's ships. In consequence of the restoration of order, the mayor conveyed the thanks of the civil authorities, on the above day, to the officers, seamen, and marines of his majesty's ships the *Egeria*, *Nimrod*, and *Swan*, previous to their departure from the port, the acknowledgments of the civil authorities, and of the gentlemen interested in the coal trade were likewise conveyed to lieut. col. Holmes, 3rd dragoon guards; lieut. col. Brandling, of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and the hon. captain Liddell, of the Ravensworth cavalry, for their services in support of the civil power, and the exemplary conduct of the troops under their command.—*Local Papers*.

December 19.—David George Clayter, a private in the 3rd regiment of dragoon guards, was found dead in a field at Sandhoe, near Hexham, having shot himself through the body with a horse pistol which was lying near him. The cause and circumstances of this shocking act, as developed before the coroner and a respectable jury, were most heart rending, it being clear that the unfortunate young man (who had been six years in the regiment, and was highly and deservedly respected by his officers and comrades) fell a victim to his ardent attachment to his wife! About a month before, he had been married at Gretna green, to a young woman named Jane Stokoe, servant in a respectable family in Carlisle, (where he was quartered), and a daughter of Mr. Ralph Stokoe, smith and publican, at Sandhoe. This match having displeased the parents, the mother went to Carlisle, and persuaded the daughter to return home with her, under the pretext of paying a visit to her family, but in reality under the idea that a marriage at Gretna Green was not binding, and that the connexion might be dissolved if the parties were once separated. After the departure of his wife and her mother, the unfortunate husband find-

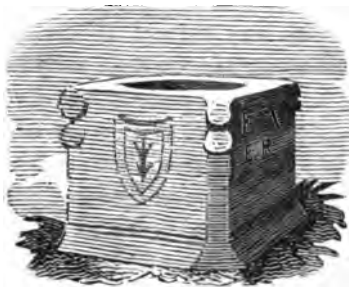
ing that they had taken away every article of the wife's clothing from their lodgings, and comparing this circumstance with the previous conversation of the mother, the dreadful truth flashed upon his mind, and, in a state of distraction he wrote a most affecting letter to his wife, which did not reach her hand, as she had previously been sent away to a relation's at Sunderland bridge, in the county of Durham; but it was opened by her friends at Sandhoe. Not receiving an answer, he obtained a furlough up to the 18th of December, and set out on Sunday the 15th for Sandhoe, where he arrived early on the following morning. Here, of course, he could not find the object of his search, nor obtain from her parents any account whither she had gone, which they studiously kept from him. This raised his mind to a state bordering on phrenzy, and he wandered between Sandhoe and Hexham, until the 19th, when he terminated his existence as above stated. Tied round his arm were a letter to his mother-in-law, dated the 18th, upbraiding her as the cruel cause of the act he was about to commit, and two letters dated the 17th and 18th, to his wife, incoherently written, but breathing the most ardent affection for her, and enclosing in one of them a cheque upon the Neath bank in Glamorganshire, for three hundred pounds, with six years' interest, which he bequeathed to her, hoping that she would never want. These two letters were enclosed in a note to his wife's brother in Hexham, desiring him to forward them to her, as he could rely on no one else to do it, and mentioning that one of them contained £400. These letters were severally read at the coroner's inquest, and their perusal excited a deep sympathy in the coroner and jury. Verdict lunacy.—*Local Rec.*

1822 (Dec. 23).—Died, at Homerton, Mr. John Clennell, aged 50. He was a native of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was for a considerable period engaged in one of the manufactories of that town; but the ardour of his mind impelled him to the preference of literary pursuits, and in these and in the congenial labours of tuition, his latter years were solely employed. His thirst of knowledge was very great, nor less his desire of its diffusion for general good. He published many years ago an "Essay on the Disclosure of the Processes of Manufacturers," first read to the literary and philosophical society of his native town, of which, as of several other similar institutions in Scotland, he was a member. For some time he conducted a periodical work, devoted to his favourite object of making the secrets of arts and manufactures public property. He was also a contributor to several of the cyclopædias.—*Mon. Mag.*

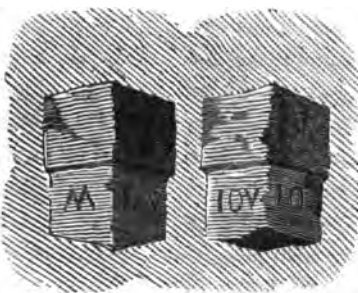
December 25.—The new Presbyterian church, in Clavering-place, Newcastle (the rev. James Pringle pastor), was opened for divine

service. The rev. J. Mitchell, D.D. of Anderston, Glasgow, and the rev. J. McGilchrist, of Dunse, officiated on the occasion, Mr. Pringle being absent on a mission to Gibraltar.—*Local Rec.*

1822.—An act of parliament was obtained for lighting, paving cleansing, watching and otherwise improving the town of Alnwick.—*Mackenzies Northd.*



3.



1.



2.

This year, the Roman sculpture figured (1.) in the margin, was found on the line of the Roman wall, at a few yards west of Denton hall. The other antiquities have been found at various periods, and are all at Denton hall. The second is what is generally termed a celt. The third a *creeing trough*,* having some illegible letters, and an unknown shield of arms on the sides; doubtless the arms and name of its proprietor. The fine font represented above belonged to the chapel adjacent to the hall, which owed its origin to the priors of Tynemouth, who possessed this place. It is finely carved, of great

antiquity, and in excellent preservation.—*MS. Col.*

Primitive methodist chapel Westgate (parish of Stanhope) Durham, founded. The registers of births and baptisms, 79 entries, extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

* "CREEING-TROUGH—a large round or square mortar for *Creeing* or pounding barley or wheat with, till each seed of corn be *shilled* or freed from husk, and the barley becomes fit for boiling in milk or broth, and wheat to make into frumenty. These Creeing-troughs are still to be found about the old *laird* and farm houses in the north of England and are ornamented in various forms and have the initials of their owners engraved upon them."—*Hodgson's MS. Glos. of North of England Words.*

1822.—Bond-street, now Prudhoe-street, in Newcastle, was formed.—*Local Papers.*

This year, a number of the old houses in the Side, Newcastle, extending upwards from the Dog-leap-stairs, were pulled down and rebuilt, and the street considerably widened. The removal of the old houses exposed to view, for a short time, a circular tower which flanks the Black-gate on its eastern side. This tower is represented in the annexed engraving, and remains in very perfect condition, especially towards its base.—*MS. Col.*



SEMI-CIRCULAR BASTION OF THE BLACK GATE (1822).

This year, were completed extensive repairs, and additions to Carliol tower, in New Bridge street, which had been principally effected in 1821. They consisted of the enlargement of the apartments, the opening of two windows on the inside, of the repair of the roof, and of the addition of the staircase, tower, &c., alterations creditable to the taste of the company of weavers, whose hall it is; but not in accordance with the style of the building.—*MS. Col.*

This year, a stone bridge, eighty feet in length, and twenty feet in breadth, was built over Dipton-burn, in Northumberland. This brook, was frequently very hazardous to pass after rains.—*Ibid.*

1823 (Jan. 3).—Mr. Charlton, surgeon, of Wylam, having at a late hour been called upon in haste to give his attendance at Oving-

ham, borrowed a spirited horse of a friend, that he might proceed with the least possible delay. He had not gone above half a mile, when he perceived his horse stumble, and he immediately threw himself from the saddle. It was fortunate he did so, for the next instant his horse had fallen down a precipice of nearly seventy feet, and, incredible as it may seem, the animal sustained no injury, but immediately dashed into the Tyne, and swam to the opposite side. Search was made after him, and hearing his master's voice, he was heard to neigh even across the river in token of recognition, and was ultimately restored without blemish.—*Local Papers.*

1823 (Jan. 4).—The paper-mill of Mr. B. Ord, at Moorsley banks, near Durham, took fire, owing to that part of the machinery which is called "The Devil," and is used in tearing rags, preparatory to their being converted into paper, having, from the great heat caused by its rapid motion, become ignited. An old man named Miller, who was left in the care of the mill for the night, gave the alarm, and Mr. Ord and his workmen, who resided on the premises, having been roused from their beds, proceeded to arrest the progress of the flames, and, after considerable exertion, succeeded in getting the fire under, but not until considerable damage had been done. The old man afterwards died of the injury he received by the machinery in endeavouring to extinguish the fire before he gave the alarm.—*Ibid.*

January 10.—A fire broke out in the residence of John Walker, esq., at Westgate-hill, near Newcastle, by which the back parts of the premises were entirely consumed. It originated in a lodging room, from the rush-light setting fire to the bed curtains.—*Ibid.*

January 11.—Died, in Newcastle, in the 70th year of his age, Robert Doubleday, esq., a most active and enlightened member of society. For twenty-six years he filled the office of vice-president and chairman of the monthly meetings of the literary and philosophical society of that town, and for nearly half a century discharged the duties of secretary to the Dispensary. He was, besides, secretary to the Fever hospital, and the Lying-in charity, chairman of the committee of the Royal Jubilee school, and a director of the Savings' bank. His humane and liberal disposition rendered him zealous in the discharge of the duties of these offices, and anxious, by every means in his power, to promote the interests of these several institutions. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Doubleday published by Mr. Charnley.—*Local Rec.*

January 17.—Died, in London, in his 72nd year, George Edwards, esq., M. D., author of several works on political economy. Mr. Edwards was a native of Barnardcastle, in the county of Durham.—*Mon. Mag.*

1823 (Jan. 27).—Died, at his house, in Bedford-row, London, in the 86th year of his age, the celebrated Charles Hutton, LL.D., F.R.S., and for upwards of forty years professor of mathematics in the royal military academy at Woolwich. Dr. Hutton was born in Percy-street, Newcastle. Like many others, he was entirely a self-taught mathematician. In the years 1755 and 1756, Charles Hutton (whose father was employed in the collieries) worked as a hewer in old Long Benton colliery, but a lameness in his arm, from an accident when young, rendering him unfit for so laborious an employment; he opened a school in the village of Jesmond, but afterwards removing to Newcastle, he taught with great reputation till 1773, when on the 29th of May that year he was appointed by the board of ordnance to the professorship of mathematics in the royal military academy at Woolwich, in the room of Mr. Cowley, superannuated. He was elected from a number of candidates, after a strict examination of several days. The following year Mr. Hutton was elected a fellow of the royal society. In 1770 he published in Newcastle, his “Treatise on Mensuration, 4to., dedicated to his grace the duke of Northumberland. The celebrated Mr. Thomas Bewick, then an apprentice to Mr. Beilby, commenced his career as a wood-engraver, by engraving the mathematical diagrams for this work. His publications were very numerous, and have nearly all become standard works in the mathematical seminaries. The beautiful marble bust of him, executed by Gahagan, and which had been presented to himself, September 21st, 1822, by a committee of the subscribers, he bequeathed to the literary and philosophical society of Newcastle. After the expenses of the bust were paid, a considerable surplus remained on hand, with this the committee agreed to engrave a die for striking off medals (one of which to be given in a case to each subscriber), to contain on the *obverse* the head of Dr. Hutton in profile, with an appropriate legend—on the *reverse*, emblems of two philosophical discoveries by him; the one on the density of the earth, and the other on the exact force or strength of gunpowder, with an appropriate *motto*.—Mrs. Hutton died at Jesmond, near Newcastle, May 26th, 1785.—*Local Rec.*

January.—The workmen commenced pulling down the *Maison de Dieu*, built in 1412, over which was the merchants’ court, at the east end of the guildhall, Newcastle, for the purpose of building a new hall for the company of free merchants, and underneath a fish-market. Besides being a great ornament to the east end of the guildhall, it has removed a nuisance (the fish stalls) from the Sandhill, and has also widened the entrance to the quay, which before was inconveniently narrow for the constant traffic in that part. In digging

for a foundation for the new building, part of the foundation of the town's-wall, which had extended along the quay, was removed by blasting, in doing which, at the depth of about twelve feet from the surface, a mason's chisel was taken out of the centre of the old wall, and which must have remained there from its first building.—*Local Rec.*



MAISON DE DIEU, NEWCASTLE (1823).

1823 (January and February).—Northumberland and Durham were visited by a dreadful snow storm, which, drifting into immense heaps, prevented the ordinary intercourse of business, as travelling, in any shape was impracticable. The various stage coaches were of course detained at Newcastle. For a whole week, the north and west mails neither reached nor were dispatched from that town. On Gateshead-fell the snow was so drifted, as in one place to be level with the top of a two story house, and here the guard of the London mail must have perished, but for the timely assistance of some pitmen, who brought forward the letter bags on their backs. So great was the fall of snow north of Newcastle, that the mail coach got so completely fixed in it, near Swarland, that it was obliged to be abandoned, after which, it was so rapidly covered with snow, and so buried, as to leave no trace of the place where it was, until after many day's thaw, when the top became visible. The west turnpike, near Newcastle, was

also completely drifted up, and when cut through, exhibited a very singular appearance, as the snow dyke stood in many places twelve and fourteen feet high. Newcastle, on some of the market days during the snow blockade, exhibited no greater bustle than on the ordinary days. On one day during the storm, the mails were dispatched to the north on thirteen saddle horses, the novelty of which excited considerable interest. Travellers were detained at many country places till all the provisions at the inns were exhausted. Sir Carnaby Haggerston, bart., hospitably entertained a large party of strangers in this predicament, at his seat at Haggerston, in Northumberland. Great damage was done to the shipping, many being wrecked near Bamborough. At Durham the snow began to fall, January 11th, accompanied by a dense fog. On the 28th, some signs of a change appeared, and on the 29th, the ice on the river Wear began to give way, but on Saturday the 31st, another heavy fall of snow commenced, and continued almost incessantly for three days. The roads in every direction were entirely blown up, and from Sunday, February 2nd, till the following Sunday, neither the mail nor any of the other coaches reached Durham, either from the north or the south. The London mail reached Darlington regularly, and Rushyford with some difficulty, from thence the bags were forwarded on horseback. February 2nd, the Highflyer and Telegraph stuck fast in the snow drift on the height of Butcher-race, and on Friday the 7th, the mail and another coach were stopped at the same place; ten horses were applied to the mail in vain, and within half an hour after, both coaches were completely covered with a snow wreath, and remained so for two days. On Sunday, February the 9th, the mail from the south arrived in Durham, drawn by six horses, and the same day the north mail, which had been detained in Durham for a week, reached Newcastle with great difficulty. The storm, which continued for about six weeks, was far more severe than that of 1814.—*Local Papers.*

Towards the close of this storm, when few people had ventured from their houses, James Horsley, a respectable farmer in the vicinity of Lemington Branch, near Alnwick, having some urgent business to transact, sallied forth on horseback; but such was the pathless state of the country, that he found it necessary to dismount and lead the animal at the length of the bridle, and by breaking the snow before him succeeded in making certain, but excessively labourious progress. He had not travelled far in this manner, when he felt the bridle suddenly jerked from his hand, and looking around, his ears were assailed by the noise of a heavy fall, succeeded by a loud reverberating sound. It appeared he had passed over the mouth of an old coal pit,

the covering of which had given way when the superior weight of the horse was imposed, and had fallen along with the poor animal which now lay mangled and lifeless at the bottom.—*R. Bolam's MS.*

1823 (Feb. 2).—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, in Newcastle, James Ilderton, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 12.—At three o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the lead manufactory of Locke, Blackett, and Co., in Gallowgate, Newcastle, which at first had a very alarming appearance; but by the assistance of the engines of the Newcastle fire-office, and those from the barracks, it was got under before six o'clock. The fire was confined to the red-lead house, where it commenced, the roof of which was burnt off, and two other roofs slightly injured.—*Ibid.*

February 19.—Wednesday evening, a most dreadful accident happened at the Theatre-royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The popular piece of "Tom and Jerry" had been produced at the theatre on Monday evening, and was got up in so excellent a manner, and acted with so much spirit, as to merit public approbation, and to excite a strong desire to witness it. It was given out for representation every evening during the week, and on the evening in question, a numerous and respectable audience attended the performance. The gallery was particularly well filled, it being calculated that there were about 500 persons, amongst whom were a very great number of women and children in that part of the house. The play had scarcely commenced when an alarm of "*fire*" in the back of one of the boxes on the left of the centre, was given from the pit, and some other parts of the house, and a flash of fire and a great quantity of smoke soon after penetrating through the gallery floor, caused a sudden panic to pervade that part of the house, and amidst loud cries of "Fire" and screams of distress, a great majority of the persons in it at the time rushed in wild alarm to the stairs. The fire was almost instantaneously extinguished, and the fact immediately announced to the house; but in vain were all assurances of safety, the fears which had been excited were too powerful to be allayed, and thinking only of escape, the affrighted throng rushed head-long down the stairs. Here their progress was stopped by the door at the place where the money was taken, which being but half open, would only admit one or two to pass at a time. In consequence of this stoppage, the part of the stairs between that door and the gallery became completely choaked up, and such a scene of horror and distress ensued as is shocking to contemplate. The pressure upon those near the door, by the continually increasing throng behind them, became intolerable; the screams were awful and heart-rending; some, pressed against the door and other projecting parts, were very violently bruised or killed; others,

thrown down by the throng, or falling through suffocation, were trampled to death or dangerously hurt. During this dreadful scene the exertions of Mr. De Camp, the manager, to preserve those exposed to it, and quiet the alarm, were most praiseworthy and incessant. He ordered the door leading from the slips to the carpenter's loft to be opened, and another means of exit being thus presented, great numbers passed out of the gallery unhurt. The crowd being thus drawn off from the stairs, the pressure in that part was somewhat removed and an opportunity was afforded of raising up and removing many of those unfortunate individuals who had been thrown down. In this humane effort Mr. De Camp was particularly active, and assisted in bearing the bodies into the carpenter's loft, whence they were taken down to the stage. Medical assistance was instantly procured, and every means were used that the case would allow, but with many, all efforts were unavailing. Whilst this was passing within, the scene on the outside was most heart-rending; females screaming and wringing their hands for the friends they had lost, or whose fate they were entirely ignorant of, whilst every now and then the sight of some inanimate body borne away on men's shoulders to some neighbouring house, gave a melancholy assurance that there was but too much reason for alarm. The news spread rapidly through the town, and an immense crowd instantly collected round the theatre, anxious to learn the extent of the calamity. The feeling of sorrow excited on the occasion was most intense, and was greatly heightened by the occasional passage of a dead body carried away on a board and covered over with a sheet—thus giving a melancholy termination to an evening which had probably been anticipated by many of the sufferers as one of unmixed pleasure and enjoyment. The crowd did not disperse till late. By this dreadful catastrophe seven individuals perished. Mrs. Robson, wife of Mr. Riddell Robson, builder, West-gate-street; Mary Johnson, aged 16 years, milliner, of the Manor-chare; Isabella Parkinson, aged 11 years, adopted child of Mrs. Green, Pilgrim-street; Thomas Handyside, aged 20 years, son of Mr. Cuthbert Handyside, bookbinder; and John Jonathan Wilkinson, son of Mr. Wilkinson, veterinary surgeon, Pilgrim-street, all of Newcastle. Dorothy Heaton, aged 17 years, daughter of Mr. George Heaton, tailor; and Mr. John Edwards, both of Gateshead. The check-taker had opened the upper barrier, and in his endeavour to open the second, as above stated, was thrown down the stairs. It was thought fortunate that he did not succeed, or the mischief would have been more dreadful, by a large body of people being dashed down the steep stairs below the barrier. Besides the seven persons killed, the following received very serious injuries:—Mrs. Edwards,

daughter in law to the deceased John Edwards; Roger Lawson, painter, Percy street; Mr. Gallon, flour dealer, Gateshead; a youth, a nephew of Mrs. Niel, publican, Manor chare; Thomas Scott, joiner, of the Windmill hills; Ralph Grahame, clerk to Welch and Co.; Henry, son of Hans Sloan, painter; Ann Fawcett, niece of Mrs. Askew, Flesh market, and Thomas Brown, second son of Mr. John Brown, builder, Vine Lane, who had four ribs broken from the back bone. Mrs. Robson was killed in the arms of her husband, who was himself much hurt.—*Local Papers.*

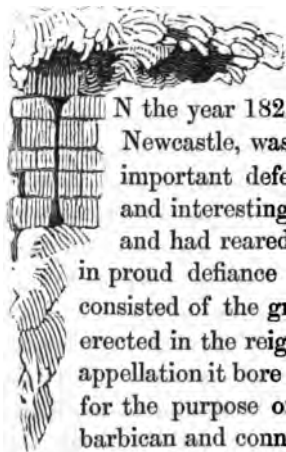
1823 (Feb. 20).—Died, Mr. Henry Taylor of North Shields, author of several valuable publications in connection with maritime affairs. Mr. Taylor used the sea twenty-two years, during twelve of which he commanded ships, mostly in the coal trade, that best nursery for seamen, and since the year 1772, had been employed on shore as ship and insurance broker. During this time, having occasion to adjust many averages and losses, the hardships and sufferings of seamen, the means of alleviating them, and of preventing the loss of so many valuable lives, became subjects of deep consideration with him. The dreadful loss which occurred on the coast of Norfolk in 1789, (see Oct. that year), had thrown the ship owners of the north into the greatest consternation, and almost every one's mind was turned to the consideration of means to prevent the like calamity in future. At this momentous time Mr. Taylor produced a plan for making Hasbro' Gatt a safe night passage, by placing two leading lights near Hasbro' church, and a floating light at the north-end of the Newarp-sand. The ship owners of Stockton, Whitby, Scarborough, Hull, and London, united with those of Newcastle in an application to the Trinity house for the immediate execution of Mr. Taylor's plan, which was carried into effect, without the slightest alteration, in the autumn of 1790; and the most beneficial consequences have resulted therefrom. Few, if any, ships have been lost there since, and it is now found to be a wide, clear, and safe *night passage*. The want of a safe night passage into Yarmouth Roads, or through Hasbro' Gatt had long been severely felt; ships that could not save daylight into the roads, or through the Gatt, were obliged to anchor under Winterton, or lay-to under sail till day. To risk a winter night in such a situation, was the dread of the boldest seaman, and for a large fleet to lay-to from two o'clock in the afternoon until eight the next morning (as has frequently been the case), was not less dangerous. Encouraged by the success of his plan for lighting Hasbro Gatt, Mr. Taylor suggested the utility of a floating light at the north-end of the Goodwin sands, which was adopted by the Trinity-house, as soon as com-

municated in 1791, as was also his plan in 1795, for a floating light at the east-end of the sunk-sand, to facilitate the passage up and down the Swin, and through the king's channel. In 1806, Mr. Taylor directed the attention of the ship-owners of Shields to the bad situation of the leading lights in that harbour, and in consequence of his suggestions, an act of parliament was obtained for the building of the present light-houses. As a remuneration for the services rendered by Mr. Taylor to the shipping interest in general, and in consideration of the expense he had incurred in the furtherance of his plans, he received the following sums at different periods:—Lloyd's coffee-house, £200. Chartered companies, £100. Corporation of Newcastle, £100. Trinity house, Newcastle, £50. Ship-owners of North Shields, £250. And from the corporation of the Trinity-house, London, an annuity of £100 per annum. He also received £129 from a few friends in London, Liverpool, Darlington, and Stockton. With these liberal donations, which however he did not receive till late in life, he was enabled to free himself from serious pecuniary embarrassments, incurred in the prosecution of his benevolent designs.—*Mem. of H. Taylor.*

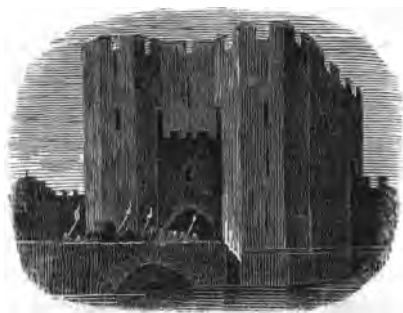
1823 (Feb. 21).—An explosion of inflammable air took place in Ouston colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which four men were killed, and two severely burnt.—*Local Papers.*

March 3.—A most violent gale of wind was experienced in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which damaged many roofs of houses, and blew down chimneys; trees were also torn up by the roots. Three of the vanes on the small pinnacles of St. Nicholas' church steeple were blown down, and part of the fine but decayed tracery in the large Gothic window, in the north transept of that church, was blown in. The four pinnacles of the new church at Heworth were blown off, and two of them passed through the roof. At North Shields, the family of Dr. Oxley were thrown into great alarm by a stack of chimneys falling through the skylight, and breaking in the floors. Happily no injury was sustained.—*Ibid.*

March 20.—A most splendid fancy dress ball and supper was given by the gentlemen bachelors of Newcastle (47) to the ladies and gentlemen in that town and neighbourhood, which took place at the Assembly-rooms, when four hundred and sixty-seven ladies and gentlemen, attired in all the splendour, brilliancy, and variety, that taste could devise or money purchase, crowded the suite of apartments. The assemblage presented a view of all the dresses of Europe, ancient and modern, and of many of those of the other quarters of the globe. So splendid an entertainment was never before seen in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*



IN the year 1823, to the great regret of the inhabitants of Newcastle, was demolished the New-gate, one of the most important defences of that ancient town. This venerable and interesting structure is replete with historic interest, and had reared its bold and massive front for many centuries in proud defiance of our northern foes. When first built it consisted of the greater or inner gate, and was most probably erected in the reign of William Rufus.* It is not known what appellation it bore at this time;† but previous to the year 1390, for the purpose of strengthening the old or former gate, a barbican and connecting walls were erected on its north front, and being called the “New Gate”‡ gave name to the whole



THE ORIGINAL GATE (1330).—Designed from various authorities.

* It was probably part of the original wall of Newcastle; both from its own architectural character and from its resembling and adjoining the wall in the church yard of St. Andrew, which is confessedly of the time of William II.

† Froissart mentions that the bishop of Durham when going to the relief of the English army at Otterburn, in 1388, passed through “La Porte de Berwick.” Now this *may* have been the name of the elder gate; but it is at least as probable that this eminent writer meant the gate on the road to Berwick, as that this was the permanent designation of the building, for it must be borne in mind that Froissart was not a native historian, consequently we can hardly expect him to descend to such minute particulars. Yet as New Gate lay in the direction of Otterburn, it is almost certain that it was the gate through which the prelate would march. Under all the circumstances perhaps it may be as well provisionally to name it “Berwick Gate,” until more conclusive evidence may be adduced.

‡ In the Tinnmouth chartulary at Northumberland House, it occurs (1390) under its present appellation, “Tenementum extra le Newgate,” evidently implying that it was a later erection than another, elder one, and also that the new erection existed before the

erection, a title which it has ever since retained. In 1399, Newcastle was made a county of itself, and taking charge of its own prisoners, the towers of the elder gate were used as the gaol.* Having formerly belonged to the county of Northumberland, its prisoners as well as the delinquents of the town were probably confined together in the Castle.† In this use the gate continued until our times when the juries of both town and county at the spring assizes of 1820, presented it “as out of repair, and inconvenient, insufficient, and insecure.” An act was therefore obtained in 1822 for the demolition of the present and the erection of new prisons. In pursuance of this decision the felons were removed to the cells of the county courts, and the debtors to the castle, and in despite of the determined and resolute opposition of the inhabitants and the numerous petitions both in prose and poetry which were presented to the corporate body, workmen commenced the demolition of the upper part of the barbican on the second day of April. The removal rapidly proceeded, and on the 10th, the statue representing King James I.‡ which stood over the

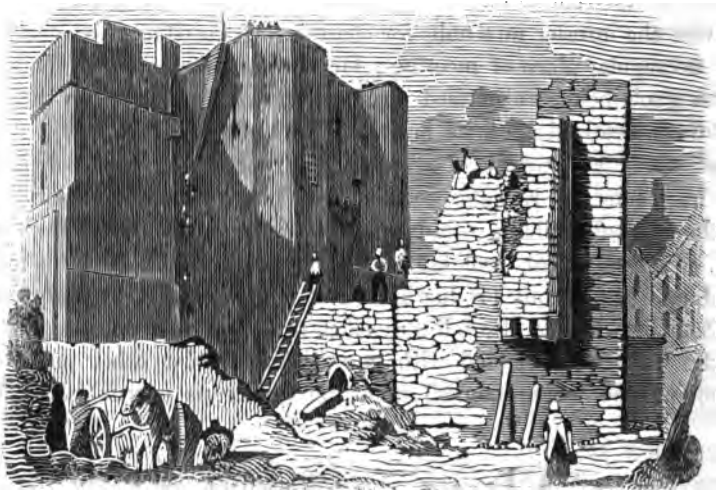


affixed date. A further proof is deducible from three shields of arms over the gateway of this “Newgate.” St. George’s Cross, The arms of the Town, and those of England, in which latter the fleurs-de-lys are semée: now these were reduced to three in the time of Henry V. (1413-22) consequently it has at least existed before such reduction.

* Brand.

† In a writing, 9th Ed. III. (1336) is mentioned a place in Newcastle called the “Aldegaole.” Whether this refers to the castle or to some other erection it is in vain to conjecture.

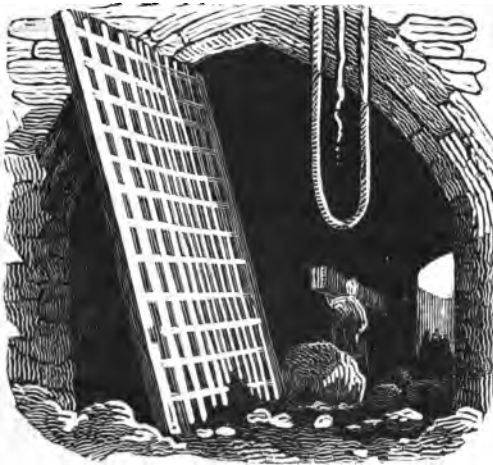
‡ Undoubtedly placed there, on or shortly after the accession of that monarch in 1603. But some losing sight of the evidence adduced by the armorial bearings, have supposed that the building itself possesses no higher date, because it bore a statue of James.



gateway was removed in a sadly mutilated state to the castle, where it now lies in four pieces. By the end of May the greatest part of the barbican had been removed, when the ruins presented the appearance represented in the above view from the north east. In June the demolition of the east wing of the inner gate was commenced, and was speedily followed by the west wing (both erected between the years 1702-6) with the remains of the barbican. The original gate was thus nearly isolated, as the accompanying view from the south east will shew. And now another vigorous but unsuccessful effort was made by the lovers of antiquity to save this venerable monument of ancient times from destruction. Among other suggestions it was proposed to



form carriage roads and foot paths on each side of the gate, and to convert the interior into halls for those incorporated companies which had no regular place of meeting; but the commissioners for building a new gaol, being authorised to apply the old materials to the new buildings, resolved upon its entire destruction. At this time a clever *jeu d'esprit*, was privately circulated, purporting to be a petition of the inhabitants of Newgate to the mayor praying for the preservation of the ancient building; and which was understood to be from the pen of a gentleman, well known for his poetic talent, and his many local and humorous productions. It was allowed to remain until September when it also fell a sacrifice to the spirit of the age. Part of the walls were blasted with gunpowder; whilst other parts (on removing the facing stones) appeared as heaps of rubbish. The

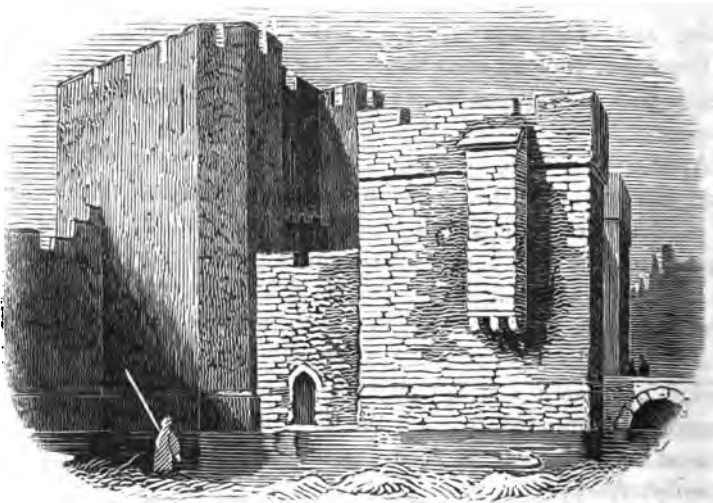


portcullis which remained here until the final demolition of the gate was the last existing in Newcastle.* It was of oak, with spikes strongly shod with iron, and of an enormous weight. While hanging

* The portcullis is now at Blagdon. Besides the defences already mentioned both gates were provided with machicollations, from which the garrison annoyed the enemy after passing the first gate. These were parts of the fortress made to project by means of corbels, having open intervals through which melted lead, boiling water, stones and arrows were discharged upon the heads of the assailants. Large weights too, were often fastened to ropes, or chains, by which, after they had taken effect, they were retracted by the besieged. In the ardour of success it often happened that a large troop of the besiegers rushing forward through the massive archway, were cut off from their companions in arms, by the sudden lowering of the portcullis, which was so strongly constructed as to defy attack, or removal, unless the stone work was broken down.



in the groove in which it slid, the spikes hung below the top of the arch way, and had at some time been sawn off to the shape of the arch, probably to facilitate the passage of laden carts. In this part too, were found many cannon balls of large size and deep sunk into the wall. All was now removed except about ten feet in height, or one story, and this followed soon after, together with the guard-house, which adjoined the west wing of the structure; and the street being levelled and paved no traces exist of this once massive and extensive fortification. The following restored view represents the New Gate, about A. D. 1400, and is designed from plans, old views, descriptions, the lately existent remains and other competent authorities. —*MS. Col.*



CHAPTER XII.



EARLY in the year 1823, as some workmen were digging in a field adjoining the turnpike road at Halton Chesters (Roman station *Hunnum*), they discovered the foundations of a stone wall, six feet thick; this they traced about forty yards in a north and south direction, without reaching either extremity. A hypocaust was also found, fifteen feet square, the floor laid with Roman tiles. The flues were found very perfect. Several openings were found into a subterraneous passage, supposed to be a sewer, and which was explored above one hundred feet. A quantity of bones, both human and others, horns of different kinds, and earthen vessels with inscriptions nearly obliterated, have been dug up.—*Local Papers*.

April.—A grey mare, belonging to Mr. Lawson of Lartington, near Barnardcastle, being at Durham fair for sale, a person wishing to purchase her, agreed with Mr. Lawson's servant to ride her a little distance on the road between Durham and Sunderland-bridge, by way of trial; and while doing so, the mare in high condition, ran away with him, at so furious a rate, that on coming to the end of Sunderland-bridge, she was not able to make the sharp turn to go along the bridge, but leaped over the battlement, and both rider and mare were precipitated into the river on the west side of the bridge; and what is most unaccountable to relate, both escaped without any injury.—*Bingley's Horses*.

The beginning of this year, Carliol-street was commenced building. previous to this it was a field called "The Carliol Croft."—*Local Papers*.

1823 (May 20).—The foundation stone of a United Secession church was laid in Carliol-street, Newcastle, by the rev. Mr. Gillan, who addressed the audience previous to the stone being deposited, and concluded the ceremony with an impressive prayer.—December 25th, 1823, it was opened for divine worship with three excellent discourses, by the rev. J. Harper, of Leith, and the rev. R. Hunter, of Carlisle, when collections to the amount of £22 6s. 10d. were made in aid of the funds. This congregation formerly worshipped in Sallyport. The register of baptisms extending from 1759, to 1785—of births and baptisms extending from 1785 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

May.—The Society of arts presented the large silver medal to Mr. Henry Marshall, of Newcastle, for his improved melting pots for brass-founders and steel-makers.—*Local Papers.*

June 4.—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new gaol and house of correction in Carliol street, Newcastle, took place at two o'clock in the afternoon. Robert Bell, esq., mayor, preceded by the regalia of the corporation, and accompanied by the recorder, aldermen, and sheriff, and the commissioners representing the four parishes, viz.:—Mr. William Coates and Mr. Francis Ewart, for St. Nicholas'; Mr. Thomas Milner and Mr. William Brownsword Proctor, for All Saints'; Mr. George Anderson, for St. John's; and Mr. Thomas Mackford, and Mr. Thomas Graham, for St. Andrews', went in procession from the Guildhall to the site of the building; a glass vase containing all the coins struck during the reign of his majesty George IV., was deposited in a cavity of the stone, by William Boyd, esq., the treasurer to the commissioners, after which, a brass plate, bearing an appropriate inscription, was inserted. The mayor then proceeded to lay the stone with a silver trowel, which he afterwards presented to Mr. John Dobson, the architect. He then addressed the concourse of spectators with great energy, in language befitting the occasion; this was received with nine hearty cheers, and the completion of the ceremony was announced by the discharge of the artillery from the castle, and the ringing of the bells of the several churches. The mayor afterwards entertained the magistrates and the commissioners at the mansion house.—*Ibid.*

June 4.—The foundation stone of a new quay, connecting the eastern end of the Low street of North Shields, with the ancient bridge over the Pow Burn, at the Low Lights, was laid. The ceremony was numerously attended, and afterwards a large company dined at Mr. Peascod's, the White Swan inn. The carriage road along this quay was named the Union way.—*Ibid.*

June 16.—Whilst some workmen were digging in the ruins of the ancient dormitories of Tynemouth priory, overlooking Prior's haven,

for the purpose of making a receptacle for gunpowder, a flat stone was turned up, which had been placed with the letters downwards, as if it had been wrought into the structure a second time. A part of the stone was broken off at each end, and the letters lost; those remaining were almost illegible. Another stone, which looked like the upper end of a hoodstone (or fire-place hudstone), had some carvings, or ornamental scrolls round the semicircular end, and what may have been the front. Pieces of small round columns, and parts of stones belonging to groin work, were also turned up amongst the cement of these ancient walls. The half-moon battery, erected during the great rebellion, is within a few yards of this place.—*Local Papers*.

1823 (June 19).—A most melancholy accident happened at Walker colliery, near Newcastle. An air-course having to be opened, some workmen were set to open an old shaft, which had been filled up for twenty five years. The length of time it had been filled up, induced a belief that the earth, &c., filling it, had become firmly united to the sides, and in consequence, the under viewer and five other men unfortunately proceeded to remove the earth from the bottom of the shaft, at the same time that others were working at the top of it. They had not worked long, when the whole mass slid down, and buried them under it. Men were immediately set to work to dig them out, when they were found in a shockingly mangled state all quite dead.—*Ibid*.

June 21.—About two o'clock on the morning, the brass foundry of Messrs. Jobson and Brunting, in Forth street, Newcastle, and the adjoining nail-factory of Flintoff and Co., were discovered to be on fire, which by great exertions were extinguished with less injury than was expected.—*Ibid*.



June.—This month, a very curious urn of earthenware was discovered by some workmen employed by Mr. John Grey, of Millfield Hill, in Northumberland, in removing a mass of large stones that had obstructed the ploughing of a field. The urn was set upon a flat stone about four feet below the surface, and surrounded by soft alluvial soil, a large flat sandstone was carefully placed over it; and above all, an accumulation of whinstones, some of them of a size inconvenient to remove, to the extent of from 80 to 100 cart loads. The urn contained a quantity of soft dust or powder, of a brown colour, and many small pieces of bones that had not been completely consumed by fire. Those of the head

were the most entire, especially parts of the skull and jaw bones, in which, although the teeth were gone, the sockets that had contained them, remained as regular as the cells in a honey comb. From the size of the tumulus, and the pains with which the ashes had been deposited in it, there is little reason to doubt that they were the remains of some person of distinction in his day and generation. Annexed is an exact wood cut, by the late Thomas Bewick, of this urn, from a drawing by Mrs. Grey.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1823 (July 9).—A large, commodious, and elegant building, erected by the society of Friends, at the head of Nile-street, Sunderland, was opened for public worship, a large concourse of strangers, attending from various parts of the country.—*Local Papers.*

July 11.—Died, in Old Elvet, in the city of Durham, aged 92 years, Mr. James Brown, commonly called the *Durham Poet*. Mr. B., who was a native of Scotland, lived many years in the Side, Newcastle, where he followed the business of a tailor; and used to attend the fairs in the neighbourhood with clothes made up for that purpose. Here his first wife died; after which he married an old lady, not devoid of eccentricities, but possessed of some property in Durham, on which account he removed to that city to reside. Mr. B. was the author of various pamphlets, Poetical, Scriptural, &c. The last which he laid before the public was a collection of doggerel poetry printed in Newcastle, in 1820, to which was prefixed a portrait of himself, sounding a trumpet to alarm sinners; it is a whole length, cut in wood by Bewick. Mrs. Brown's died June 27th, 1824, in Gilligate, Durham, aged 80 years. She was a most singular woman; and in her religion, like her eccentric husband, a follower of Johanna Southcott. She pretended to have had numerous visions concerning a future state, all of which she firmly believed.—*Ibid.*

July 26.—Grace Griffin was executed at Berwick, for the murder of her husband, John Griffin. An immense concourse of spectators assembled on this occasion, as there had not been an execution in Berwick since May 10th, 1758, when Margaret Drydon was executed for the murder of her bastard child.—*Ibid.*

July 29.—The cordwainers of Newcastle, celebrated the festival of St. Crispin, by holding a coronation of their patron saint, and afterwards walking in procession through several streets of that town. The coronation took place in the court of the Peace and Unity Hospital, at the Westgate, at eleven o'clock, and soon after twelve, the procession moved forward through the principal streets of that town and Gateshead, and finally halted at the sign of the Chancellor's Head, in Newgate street, where the members of the trade partook of a dinner provided for the occasion. A great number of people assem-

bled to witness the procession, as there had not been a similar exhibition since the year 1789.—*Local Papers*.

1823 (Aug. 12).—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, Mary Robson, aged 103 years. Two years before she underwent an amputation of her arm, at the Infirmary, Newcastle, having been run over by a coal waggon.—*Ibid*.

This month, a human skull and some bones, much in decay, were dug up by the side of Fulwell hill, near Sunderland.—*Ibid*.

September 1.—Died, at Whitton, near Rothbury, Isabella Burn, aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.

September 12.—The inhabitants of Newcastle and Gateshead were gratified with a novel and interesting spectacle, in a procession through the principal streets, of the workmen employed in several of the glass-houses in that and the neighbouring towns. The morning was ushered in with the ringing of bells, and notice of the intended procession having been previously circulated, numbers of people crowded the streets to witness the pleasing spectacle. The yard at the Skinner's burn, belonging to Messrs. Clayton, was the place appointed for the assembling of those who had to form the procession. Here having been marshalled in due order, a little after twelve o'clock it moved forward along the Close, amid the cheers of the assembled multitude, the firing of cannon, and the ringing of bells. It was preceded by the band of the Tyne Hussars, and was composed of the workmen of the Northumberland, the South Shields, the Wear (Sunderland), and the Durham and British (Gateshead), the Stourbridge (Gateshead), and the North Shields glass companies, arranged according to the seniority of their respective houses, each of which was distinguished by appropriate flags. The sky was clear, and the rays of the sun falling upon the glittering column, gave it a richness and grandeur in appearance that defy description. The hat of almost every person in it was decorated with a glass feather, whilst a glass star sparkled on their breasts, and a chain or collar of variegated glass hung round the neck; some of them also wore sashes round their waists. Each man carried in his hand a staff, on a cross piece on the top of which was displayed one or more curious or beautiful specimens of their art. As these were thus carried above the heads of the crowd, a full view of them was afforded to every one, and the procession was relieved from the inconvenience which might otherwise have been experienced from the populace crowding round it to obtain a sight of the different vessels. These consisted not only of a profusion of decanters, glasses, goblets, jugs, bowls, dishes, &c., which may be called the staple articles of the trade, and which exhibited an endless variety of elegant shape

and exquisite workmanship, but also of several others, remarkable either for their grandeur and excellence of work, or for the curious nature of their construction: amongst the latter were two elegant bird cages, containing birds, which sang at periods during the procession; a salute was fired several times from a fort mounted with glass cannon, to the astonishment of the spectators; and a glass bugle, which sounded the halts and played several marches, was also much admired for its sweetness and correctness of tone. Several elegant specimens of stained glass were exhibited, and many of the men wore glass hats and carried glass swords. When the procession arrived at the Mansion-house it halted, where a salute was fired from the glass cannon; the procession then moved forward, passing along the bridge to Gateshead, and up the streets of that town as far as Mr. Price's house; it then returned and paraded through the principal streets of Newcastle, and finally halted at Mr. Thomas Heron's the Cock inn, at the head of the Side, where the men belonging to four of the houses were to dine. Here the brittle fort fired a salute, as it had done several times before. The men of the two remaining houses then proceeded to their respective places of entertainment, one to Mrs. Wallace's, Nag's head, foot of the Butcher's bank, the other to Mr. Methuen's, Gateshead.—*Local Papers.*



THE NAG'S HEAD, BUTCHER BANK (1823).
Said to have been a former Mansion-house.

1823 (Sept. 24).—An elegant silver cup was given to Mr. Thomas Forsyth, sergeant at mace, by several of the drapers in Newcastle, for his exertions as a police officer in that town. The cup bore an appropriate inscription, and was presented by Mr. Robert Oliver, on behalf of the subscribers, in a neat speech, which Mr. Forsyth acknowledged in return. The party partook of a supper at the house of Mr. Teasdale, sign of the Dun cow, Grinding chare, Quayside, and spent the evening with the greatest conviviality.—*Local Papers*.



IN GRINDING CHARE, NEWCASTLE (1843).

September 26.—Died, at Hedston Link house, near Warkworth, Mrs. Jane Young, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

October 23.—Died, at West Thirston, near Felton, Northumberland, Mr. Charles Gibson. Without any previous indisposition, he dropped down at his own door, and instantly expired. In early life he learnt the trade of a linen-weaver, in which he was very proficient; but taking a dislike to the business, he gave it up, and, without any instruction whatever, commenced making musical instruments, such as small pipes, bagpipes, violins, clarionets, &c. He also made telescopes, which he completed with admirable dexterity; and the late Dr. Herschel, the astronomer, did him the honour to inspect and purchase some of his making.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1823 (Oct. 31).—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, Jane Downie, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

October 31.—A parhelion, or the phenomenon of three suns, appeared at Calvert's farm, near Gretham, in the county of Durham, at 12 o'clock at noon.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

November 2.—A fire was discovered, about four o'clock on the morning, in the tallow-melting and candle-making house and loft of Mr. Caleb Wilson, in Walton lane, Sunderland. The devouring element raged with great fury for about two hours, when, by the prompt exertions of Mr. Thomas Cook, the engine-keeper, and the ready assistance of the inhabitants in general, the fire was got under, but not until that part of Mr. Wilson's extensive range of warehouses was entirely burnt down, and about half of the stock, &c. therein destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

November 3.—A dreadful explosion of inflammable air took place in the Plain pit of Rainton colliery, in the parish of Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, belonging to the marquis of Londonderry, when fifty-three men and boys perished, and several others were dreadfully hurt, two of whom afterwards died; twelve horses were also killed. A little before eight o'clock, one of the overmen, and soon after, one of the workmen, descended the pit, and succeeded in bringing several of the sufferers to bank; and in the course of the morning the bodies of all who had perished were brought up, with the exception of four, who were in the most distant parts of the mine. The bodies presented a most shocking spectacle, being much burnt, and many of them very much mutilated.—*Ibid.*

1823.—Towards the close of this year, extensive gas-works, on a scale of fifteen to twenty cubic feet of gas, were established in the city of Durham.—*Surtees*.

December 1.—Died, in Alnwick, Miss Hindmarsh, aged 25 years. She was the author of the "Cave of Hoonga, a Tongean Tradition, and other Poems," published at Alnwick, her native town, in 1818. This young lady possessed considerable literary talents, having, at the early age of fifteen, written several of the miscellaneous pieces which compose the above volume.—*Mackenzie*.

December 10.—Soon after eleven o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the engine-house of the saw-mill belonging to Messrs. Brown and son, carpenters, at the head of Northumberland-street, Newcastle, and the wind blowing strong at the time, the fire raged with such fury, that before any engines arrived, the house and machinery were entirely destroyed. By the force of the wind, the sparks were carried into the adjoining stack yard of Mr. Lax, and unfortunately communicated to one of the stacks, which was soon in an entire blaze. By the arri-

val of the engines, and the exertions of the assistants, the other stacks were preserved. Part of the range of work sheds belonging to Mr. Brown were pulled down, to prevent the fire from spreading; but fortunately the flames reached no part of them, or of the great stock of timber lying about. How the fire originated was not known; when first discovered, it had attained no great height, but, from the injudicious bursting open of the doors, the wind soon raised the flames to such an ungovernable height, that in less than an hour, the whole building and machinery were destroyed.—*Local Papers.*

1823 (Dec. 13).—There was an extraordinary parade of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, on the town moor, Newcastle, for the purpose of presenting their worthy commander, lieutenant-col. Brandling, M. P., of Gosforth house, with a magnificent gold vase, unanimously voted to him by the individuals of that regiment. It was presented by major sir Charles Loraine, bart., who addressed the colonel in a very appropriate speech, to which the colonel made an eloquent reply. At the conclusion of the speeches, there were loud cheerings, which lasted some minutes. This magnificent present is a copy of the celebrated Warwick vase, found in Herculaneum, and now in the possession of the earl of Warwick. With the pedestal, it is nineteen inches in height, and will contain about eight quarts. The weight is upwards of three hundred ounces. It was manufactured under the direction of Messrs. Lewis and Wright, goldsmiths and jewellers, Newcastle. Although it was a cold winter day, with occasional showers, several ladies were present, among whom were Mrs. Brandling, Mrs. Bigge, Mrs. Dixon Brown, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, &c. &c.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—On account of Mr. Thomas Gustard, one of the brethren of St. Edmund's hospital, having attained his 100th year, the rev. John Collinson, rector, celebrated the event by a dinner at the Rectory-house, Gateshead, for all the brethren, the old man sitting at the head of the table, and the rector honouring them with his presence. Mr. Gustard died on the 23rd of March, 1828. at the age of 104.—*Ibid.*

This year, Bishop Auckland Independent chapel was built. The register of births and baptisms containing 8 entries, extends from 1824 to 1834.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Union-street chapel (Primitive methodists) North Shields, founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1823 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

Primitive methodist chapel, Glebe (parish of Jarrow) South Shields, founded. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1834 to 1837.—*Ibid.*



TURRETS ON THE WALL OF NEWCASTLE.

Between Morden and Ever Towers (1783).

1823.—Stowell-street, running westward from Heron-street, within the town walls, Newcastle, was this year commenced building.—*Local Papers*.

This year, died, at Hexham, Mrs. E. Carr, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

1824.—(Jan. 7).—Died, at Cornsay, in the county of Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkley, aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.

January 8.—On removing a barrow, consisting of about 500 cart loads of stones, on the farm of Mr. Black, at North Charlton, on the east side of the post road, and about 100 paces from the six mile stone north of Alnwick, two rude sepulchres were found, about seven yards asunder; the first consisted of four stones set on edge, four feet long and two feet broad; these were covered by one large stone. In this sepulchre, which was about four feet from the surface, were found some small bones. The other grave was of larger dimensions, being also formed of stones set on edge, and measuring within, full six feet long, two feet wide, and two and a half deep. The joints were cemented with a kind of blue clay. At the west end of this sepulchre, was a stone placed as a pillow, whereon was found a human skull, measuring nine inches long and seven inches across the temples; the under jaw contained three fresh teeth; there were also leg and feet bones found

in their proper places. In this grave was also found a brass spear, about six inches long in the blade, with two edges and a very sharp point; it had a haft rivetted on to it, apparently of bone, but which soon crumbled to dust. This latter sepulchre was about six feet from the surface, covered with one stone about seven feet long, four feet broad, and about twenty inches thick; these, which were in a rough state, were bedded upon a blue loam or clay. No inscription was observable upon any of the stones. They were afterwards removed to the plantation of Charlton hall, and the spear was sent to John Cay, esq., of Edinburgh, proprietor of the estate.—*Mackenzie*.

1824 (Jan. 17).—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. Dobson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers*.

January 23.—Hackney coaches were established in Newcastle, and the stand was appointed to be in the square in front of St. Nicholas' church. The fares were appointed by the right worshipful William Wright, esq., the mayor, acting between the proprietors and the public provisionally, untill the rates of fare could be finally settled by the magistrates assembled at the Easter quarter sessions, in pursuance of the local act of parliament for that purpose.—*Ibid*.

January 25.—A very elegant new organ, built and erected by Messrs. Wood and Co., of Edinburgh, was opened at Gateshead church by D. S. Hawks, esq., who kindly volunteered his services on the occasion. A very excellent sermon was preached on the morning by the rev. Charles Thorp, of Ryton, from the 4th verse of the 100th Psalm, after which, a collection of £29 18s. 5d., was made to assist in defraying the expense of the purchase and erection of the organ; and in the evening a very well arranged and suitable sermon, was preached by the reverend John Collinson, of Lamesley, from the 5th chap. 2nd Chron. verses 13 and 14, and a collection of £16 2s. 2d. made. The church was crowded both in the morning and evening, and the instrument gave great satisfaction. The performance was of the most masterly style.—*Ibid*.

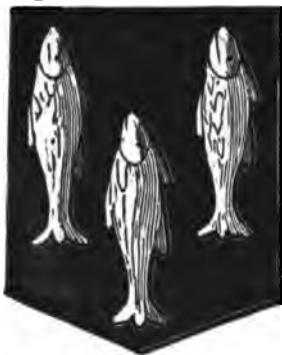
February.—Died at Low Gosforth, near Newcastle, Mary Dees, aged upwards of 100 years. A portrait of this centenarian was sketched and also etched by Mr. Parker.—*Ibid*.

February 9.—A fire was discovered raging with great violence in the cabin of the Pomona, captain Pybus, lying on the south side of the river at Newcastle. Considerable damage was done before it was extinguished. The fire originated from the overheating of the cabin stove.—*Ibid*.

February 11.—Died at Greenock, aged 78, Mr. Alexander Cuthell, he performed at the new theatre, in the Castle-yard with Mrs. Best, in 1781, who afterwards shone in the London theatres. This

clever but eccentric man, is said to have ruined himself in fitting up the Castle-garth theatre. Mrs. McGeorge fitted up the theatre in the Moot hall. The scenes were painted by Mr. Waters. At the same time, Mr. Kinlock's (sen.) dancing-school was held in the jury-room.—*Mackenzie*.

1824 (Feb. 14).—The windmill belonging to Mr. George Blaxland, at Carr's hill near Gateshead, was destroyed by fire. The adjoining dwelling-house was saved. How the fire (which took place at night) originated, could not be ascertained, as the mill had not been at work since the morning, and the premises had been examined and appeared secure a short time before the fire was discovered.—*Local Papers*.



February 19.—Died, in Gloucester-place, London, aged 73, sir John Orde, bart., admiral of the red, and vice-president of the naval charitable society. He was the youngest son of John Orde, esq. who lived chiefly at Morpeth, and acted for many years as a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, by his second wife, Anne, widow of the rev. W. Pye, and was born at Morpeth, Dec. 1752. Sir John Orde, in 1766, first entered the navy; in 1773, was made a lieutenant; in 1777, promoted to the rank of commander; in 1778, post captain; and in 1783, he was appointed governor of the island of Dominica. In 1790, he was created a baronet. In 1795, he was promoted to a flag; in 1797, he was made vice-admiral of the blue; in 1801, vice-admiral of the white; in 1804, vice-admiral of the red; Nov. 9, 1805, admiral of the blue squadron, and in 1807, when his nephew, the present lord Bolton, was called to the house of peers, in consequence of the demise of his father, sir John Orde succeeded him in the representation of the borough of Yarmouth, Hampshire.—*Genl's Mag.*

March 9.—The town of Sunderland was first lighted with gas, the brilliancy of which was much admired by a large concourse of spectators.—*Local Papers*.

March 16.—The first general meeting of the literary, scientific, and mechanical institution, of Newcastle, was held in the Joiners hall, Mr. Robert Robson, in the chair. After some discussion, rules were adopted, and two secretaries, with eighteen members for an acting committee were chosen. April 27th, the library was opened in a room in Pilgrim street, which had been occupied as an auction mart. Most of the books had been presented. The first monthly

meeting of this institution, the rev. William Turner in the chair, was held May 11th, 1824. This institution, which is at present in a very flourishing state, is held in very spacious apartments in a building fitted up for the purpose near the east end of Blackett street, it was opened on the evening of May 4th 1829, on which occasion the room was crowded to excess.—*Local Papers*.

1824 (March).—The foundation stone of a new school-room, at Warkworth, for boys, to be built by subscription, capable of containing 100 children, to be instructed on the Madras system, and in the principles of the church of England, was laid by the rev. T. Winscom, the vicar.—*Ibid*.

March.—Some masons working in a quarry at Cowpen High house, near Blyth, discovered, inclosed in a block of freestone, two petrified fish, apparently, from their shape and dimensions (about two and a half feet in length), of the salmon tribe, though the scales were larger than belong to that description of fish. The impression of the scales was left on the stone in which they were found.—*Ibid*.

April.—The beginning of this month, as the workmen were cutting a drain, a little in advance of the south side of the castle, at Newcastle, they discovered several human skeletons, some at the depth of eight feet, and others at the depth of three feet from the surface. Two were found at about eighteen inches from each other, lying with the feet to the east, and secured from the earth by rude sepulchres, the bottoms of which were formed of thin stones and lime, and the sides built up of stones, with stones laid upon the tops to support the superincumbent earth. A skull of one of these had a round perforation in the top, as if made by a ball; the under jaw was attached to the skull, and had the teeth quite perfect; those in the upper jaw were also perfect, except two or three in the front, which the workmen said they had knocked out. It is very natural to suppose that these must have been men of rank, from the manner of their interment, as the other bodies which were found, seemed to have been promiscuously huddled together.—*Local Rec*.

April 5.—Died at North Shields, aged 71 years, Mr. James Pringle, a most profound mathematician. The small share of school education Mr. Pringle had, he obtained at Cambo, in Northumberland. He was almost self-taught, having acquired a knowledge of the French, Latin, and Greek languages. At one period of his life he was an assistant for the "Nautical Ephemeris," under the late astronomer-royal, Dr. Maskelyne. He corresponded with the late Dr. Hutton on scientific subjects. Mr. Pringle was for twenty-two years vice-treasurer to the North Shields Subscription library, and was at all times an unassuming man.—*Local Rec*.

1824 (April 5).—The Horticultural and Botanical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was established. The first prize exhibition was held January 14, 1825.—*Local Papers*.

April 15.—Died, at Witton Gilbert, Durham, Ann Hall, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.



April 20.—Died, in Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London, the rev. Robert Clarke, M. A., rector of Walwick, and lecturer of Hexham, aged 53 years. May 1st, his remains arrived at Newcastle, and on the 3rd, the mournful procession was joined by several private carriages, and set out with considerable heraldic splendour for Hexham, displaying a great number of banners and escutcheons. The day was one continued storm of wind and rain, but notwithstanding, as the procession approached its destination,

it was met and joined by the members of the different trades, and almost all the inhabitants of Hexham, in deep mourning, to testify their respect for the deceased. The shops were shut, the bells tolled at intervals, and the throng of people, accumulating as the hearse advanced, produced an effect of imposing and melancholy awe, which was much heightened by the solemn order of the procession, the rear of it being composed of a great number of respectable gentlemen of Hexham and its neighbourhood, who walked in pairs. The funeral service was performed by the rev. C. Lee, and after a solemn dirge on the organ, Luther's sublime hymn was impressively chanted. By the death of this great and good man, the town and neighbourhood of Hexham suffered an almost irreparable loss, and numerous odes, elegies, &c. &c., were written on the occasion. As a proof of the general estimation in which this gentleman was held, a sermon was preached on the occasion, in the Presbyterian chapel, Hexham, on Sunday May 9th, 1824, by the rev. James Richardson, from 2nd Samuel, 3rd chap. 38 verse, and which was published by request.—*Local Rec.*

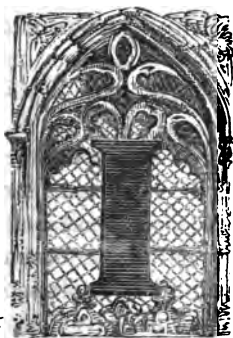
April 21.—The barns, stables, cow-houses, and sheds, on the farm at South Acomb, near Bywell, the property of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P., were entirely destroyed by fire. The dwelling house and a cottage were all that escaped the devouring element. The tenants had two calves, a cart, and a considerable quantity of implements of husbandry consumed, also a thrashing machine, and sixty bolls of oats were destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

April 23.—Mr. George Gilmore, the surveyor of the turnpike-road

between Durham and Newcastle, having discovered that a sprinkling of the oil of salt was most effectual in laying the dust of roads for a considerable time without a repetition, tried the experiment at Birtley-lane, and on the McAdamised part of Dean-street, &c., all which confirmed the value of the discovery.—*Local Rec.*



THE NORTH TRANSEPT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, NEWCASTLE (1825).



IN consequence of the injury received by the fine old window of the South Transept of St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle, from the effects of a high wind on the 24th of February, 1818, it was found necessary to prop it on the inside to prevent its entire fall; and being rendered still more ruinous by another storm on March 3rd, 1823, further exertions were made to support it until the material for a new window could be prepared. On inspection it was found that the walls were so much decayed that the original idea of removing the mere window should be extended to the

clearance of the whole north end, which with the exception of the foundations, and an apartment beneath, was to be effected. On the 27th of April, 1824, therefore, the workmen commenced operations. While they were thus engaged, they found a stone of a singular description. It bore the semblance in strongly carved work of the representations usually given of his Satanic majesty. There is a very striking likeness between this sculpture and another on the principal entrance door of Durham cathedral. It is difficult perhaps, if not impossible to assign any age for this curiosity, but it is probable that at some period it was used in a different and elder building, the face being turned inward, as if to hide it from observation, and to make it serve a purpose in common with the other stones. Care was taken in the erection of the new window and its surrounding masonry to follow the style of the original, and it is but due to the parties who superintended the restoration, and especially to the taste of the rev. John Smith, the then vicar, to confess that their exertions have been crowned with success. Its width is traversed by five lofty mullions, from the heads of which expand a variety of tracery of the most delightful and elegant forms. This together with several improvements in the interior of the transept, were completed by the end of June in the same year. The initial letter at the commencement of this record, represents one of the smaller windows in St. George's porch, on the south side of this transept.—*M.S. Col.*

1824.—About this period, Mr. Robert Robson, the occupier, dug out of the ruins of Cartington castle, Northumberland, a stone with the date 1030; a mutilated figure of the Blessed Trinity; a figure of St. Anthony; the top of a beautiful Gothic window, &c.; with what appeared to have been a font or stoup for holy water. These circumstances are perhaps sufficient to prove, that near the front or south of the castle, has anciently stood a church or chapel, now totally buried in oblivion. The castle was formerly possessed by an ancient family of its own name. John de Cartington occurs in the 15th century as a knight of the shire.—*Mackenzie.*

April.—A great number of oak coffins were found in a tract of sloping boggy ground, about three hundred yards north of the farm house of the Eals, in the Manor of Featherstone, Northumberland. The coffins are made of round boles of oak, riven in two and fastened down again with an oaken peg at each end. They were discovered in making drains, when several were found lying north and south very near each other, and about five feet below the surface. Afterwards, in making further researches, lord Wallace had a bore rod put down here in ten different places, and it touched coffins, nine times. They were all imbedded in fine blue clay: but such as were found in the



wet mossy ground were in better preservation than those in drier places. Some of them are preserved at Featherstone castle: and one of them attracts the attention of curiosity in the collection of antiquities belonging to the society of Antiquaries at Newcastle.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1824 (May 13).—The foundation stone of a new church, dedicated to St. John, on Gateshead Fell, was laid by the rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead. As is customary on such occasions, the coinage of the reigning monarch, from a penny, in silver, to a sovereign, was deposited in a handsome flint-glass bottle, which bottle was placed in a cavity in the foundation stone, along with a neat silver tablet, bearing an inscription which set forth the name of the rev. gentleman who performed the ceremony, the dignities, &c., of the rev. diocesan (the lord bishop of Durham), the names of the trustees—sir R. S. Hawks, knt., Matthew Atkinson, John Barras, Michael Hall, and Henry Smith, esqrs., and of the architect, Mr. Ions, as well as the day of the month, and the year of the reign of his majesty George IV. After the stone was deposited, the rector put up an excellent and appropriate prayer which was listened to with becoming attention. On the conclusion of the ceremony a salute of nine guns was fired from a temporary battery, which was answered by nine cheers from the populace. Afterwards a large party partook of refreshment most liberally and hospitably provided in a tent by James Hutchinson, esq., of Sheriff-hill. August 30, 1825, the church and cemetery were consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford. Oct. 30, the church was opened for divine service, when a sermon was preached by the rev. John Collinson, A.M., rector of Gateshead. April 15, 1827, an excellent organ was opened in this church, on which occasion Mr. D. S. Hawks presided.—*Local Papers.*

May 27.—The rev. John Collinson, rector, the four-and-twenty, the churchwardens, and a great number of other inhabitants, accompanied by Mr. Forster, steward to Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., lord of the manor, perambulated the boundaries of the parish of

Gateshead. They commenced at the Blue-stone, on Tyne bridge, at nine o'clock, attended by two constables with flags, and two excellent pipers, and were greeted at their departure with a salute of guns from Price's glass-works, and a peal of bells from St. Mary's church. They proceeded by the northern and the western boundaries to Wreckington, where refreshments were provided for them, and an excellent band afforded amusement for the ladies in the dance. Hence the procession moved along the southern and eastern boundary to the river Tyne, where the constables and pipers took boat, and proceeded to the bridge. A medal was struck on this occasion, bearing on the obverse, within a circle of dots, the arms of Gateshead, round which "Gateshead Parish Boundary Token;" and on the reverse, within a circle of dots, "The Rev. John Collinson, Rector," round which, "Perambulated 27th May, 1824." As there had not been a perambulation since the year 1792, a great number of persons attended. The ceremony ended at about half-past four o'clock, when the party sat down to an excellent dinner, at the Black bull inn, sir R. S. Hawks, knt., in the chair.—*Local Papers*.

1824.—Shincliffe bridge, in the county of Durham, having been indicted as being too narrow and out of repair, the present bridge was commenced in June, this year, under the professional superintendence of Mr. Bonomi. It was rendered passable in Sept. 1826, and consists of two flat elliptic arches, of sixty feet span each. The whole sum expended by the county was 7,056l. 7s. 5d.—*Surtees*.

June.—The sexton of the church at Barnard Castle, Durham, dug up, in the church-yard this year, a Roman coin, nearly the size of a sovereign. It is in a state of good preservation, and has round a head decorated with a wreath of laurel, the following inscription:—"IMP. CAES. NERVA TRAIANVS. GERM." ("The Emperor Cæsar Nerva Trajanus Germanus.") On the reverse is a crowned figure, seated, and holding an olive branch in the right hand, round which is inscribed, "P. M. TR. P. COS. III. P. P.—(A High Priest, a Tribune of the People, thrice a Consul, and styled the Father of his country.)" Nerva Trajan reigned in the 98th year of the Christian era, consequently this coin is above 1700 years old.—*Tour in Teesdale*.

June.—The foundation stone of Longhurst house, Northumberland, the seat of William Lawson, esq., was laid, from the designs of John Dobson, esq. Its architecture is Grecian, its masonry of the most excellent description, its material, a fine grained and warmly tinted sandstone from an adjacent quarry; and its interior boasts of every convenience and luxury of modern times. The grounds are laid out in a style suited to the architecture of the mansion in every particular.—*MS. Col.*



BERTRAM MONEBOWCHER TOWER, INSIDE, 1823.
One of the towers removed at this period.

1824 (July).—The town wall which extended from Newgate to Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, with the straggling houses which were built against it on the outside, were at this time being pulled down, for the purpose of forming an elegant new square and street, which have since been completed, and named “Eldon-square,” after our illustrious townsman, the earl of Eldon, and “Blackett-street,” after the late alderman John Erasmus Blackett, esq.—*Local Rec.*

A renegade who had been in the British naval service during the late war, and, on the return of peace, stationed at the flag-staff on the Town moor, Newbigging-by-the-Sea, made a confession at Potsdam, that in 1812 he had murdered a man, who had escaped from a ship that was wrecked near the flag-staff, secured his chest, and buried his body on a point a little to the south of the station. Depositions of his confession were forwarded from the war office, to Mr. Bigge, of Linden, with instructions to enquire into the truth of his account. He was well remembered at Newbiggin, as a worthless fellow; but after a most diligent search was made for the dead mans bones, nothing of the kind could be found; and as the criminal had been several times in prison after his return from Prussia, for dishonest practices, and was in durance at hard labour in the work-house at Potsdam for life when he made the confession, it was believed that his whole tale was a fabrication to get to be put upon his trial in England, and set at liberty under more lenient laws than those of his own country.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

August 11.—The cause so vo very interesting to Newcastle and its neighbourhood—Rex versus Russell and others, proprietors of Walls-

end colliery, was tried at York, before Mr. Justice Bailey and a special jury. It was in form an indictment for an alleged nuisance in obstructing the navigation of the river Tyne, by erecting at the termination of the colliery railways, staiths or spouts for conveying coals directly from the waggons into the ships. Mr. Brougham was counsel for the keelmen, who were the real prosecutors. Mr. Scarlett for the defendants. A great number of witnesses were in attendance, but only seventeen were examined on the part of the prosecution. No witnesses were called for the defendants, who obtained a verdict of not guilty, which was returned in three minutes by the jury. The cause lasted twelve hours. This cause was again tried, August 14th and 15th, 1828, at Carlisle, before Mr. Baron Hullock, and a special jury. Mr. Brougham was again counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. Scarlett for the defendants. The latter did not call a witness. The jury after a consultation of four hours, returned the following singular verdict:—"We find that part of the navigable channel of the river Tyne, opposite to Wallsend, has been straitened, narrowed, lessened, and obstructed by the gears described in the indictment; but we find nevertheless, that the trade of the town of Newcastle, and the harbour of the Tyne, has at the same time greatly improved."—*Local Papers*.

1824 (Aug. 21).—A meeting of the nobility, clergy, and freeholders of the county of Northumberland, took place in the county courts, in Newcastle, (by order of the high sheriff,) to consider the expediency of forming a railway between Newcastle and Carlisle. Col. Coulson, opened by recommending an easy communication from sea to sea by a railway. Mr. Armstrong, merchant, endeavoured to prove to the meeting the decided advantage of a ship canal over a railway. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., then proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire whether this communication would be most desirable by a canal or railway, which was unanimously agreed to, and the meeting broke up. March 26th, 1825, another meeting was held, when the report of the committee in favour of a railway, was agreed to unanimously and without debate.—*Ibid*.

August 26.—This day (Thursday), there was the lowest spring ebb ever remembered in the river Tyne. Three pilots, L. Burn, junior, J. Harrison, and William Tully, walked across from the south to the north side of the river on Tynemouth bar! a circumstance, which it was believed, had never occurred before. At high water on that day, there were twenty-four feet, eight inches, water on the bar, and when the pedestrians set off they found only two!—*Local Rec*.

August 29.—Died suddenly, while sitting at his desk, William Richardson, esq., of North Shields, aged 65 years. Mr. Richardson was born at Little-harle, Well-house, in the parish of Kirkwhelpington,

May 26th, 1759, and where he obtained an accurate knowledge of local antiquities, and a high relish for the music, songs, and tales of the ancient Northumbrian borderers. He was a teacher in his youth, and kept a school for a few years at Backworth, in the parish of Earsdon. He next removed to North Shields, where he practised as a notary public, for the long period of thirty-four years, and became secretary to several Marine Insurance Clubs of the port of Tyne. His correspondence was most extensive, and the ease and rapidity with which he conducted it were really astonishing. He was a contributor to several periodical publications, and a useful correspondent to some provincial newspapers. "Hotspur," and various other specimens of his poetic talents, were privately circulated amongst his friends. His "Description of Croft Spa," obtained some celebrity, but his fame rests most upon his translation of Anacreon in chaste, smooth, and elegant verse. There is a marble monument to his memory put up in Tynemouth church.—*Local Papers.*

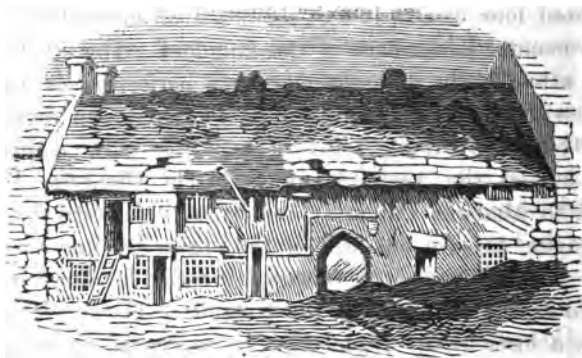
1824 (Sep. 2).—During a severe thunder storm, the wife of Michael Anderson, a hind at Westburnhope, near Hexham, and the horse on which she was riding were instantaneously killed by lightning, on the road between Ridlamhope and Westburnhope. Her husband was with her, and was struck down and blinded, but recovered his sight. Six cows belonging to Mr. Ralph Forster, of Barrasford, were killed by one flash. A horse, at Wittonstall, was also struck dead. A thorn hedge, near Horsley, was set on fire, and burnt for about forty yards. In a house, near Newstead, between Alnwick and Belford, a man was killed, and another much hurt by the lightning. A cow, the property of Mr. Murdy, of Heifer-law-bank, was also killed in the field. A pig was killed by the lightning, at a house near Morton-square, a few miles from Berwick, and a man at the same place was slightly injured. Two houses in Zion-street, Sunderland, were much damaged by the lightning. As a butcher was driving some lambs in the Back-lane four of them were struck dead. A mason returning home with his trowel in his hand, the lightning struck the trowel, and carried it to a considerable distance. The man was not hurt. At Middleton in Teesdale, as Mr. John Pinkney, one of the stewards to the London Mining Company, at that place, was returning home, about a mile from Middleton, he and his horse were both killed upon the spot. He left a widow far advanced in pregnancy, and six small children to lament his awful fate. A tremendous flash went down the chimney of the poor-house, in Barnard-castle, and though about twenty persons were in the rooms, it providentially did no material hurt. It came out of the fire-place of the first story, and though some old men were sitting round the fire, it did not hurt them, except striking one

deaf for a little time. It then passed to the next room, tore the plastering from the wall, ploughed up the boards for two yards or more, passed under the feet of an old woman who was sitting on an iron beadstead, yet did her no harm. It then proceeded to the lower story, played round the room in the most astonishing manner, leaving marks of its power; from thence it went through the wall into the back kitchen, knocked one man down, and though the mistress of the house and a girl were nearly in a line with it, they only found its effects a few hours. A person in the kitchen said he distinctly saw it go out of the door in the form of a ball of fire. When the master went into the rooms to look after the old people, the sulphur was so strong that he could scarcely enter, and the scene was past description.—*Local Papers.*

1824 (Sep. 18).—Died, at Deptford, Bishopwearmouth, Jane Claxton, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—Died, at Sunderland, Jane Wayman, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

September 28.—The new market-house at Stockton, for butchers, was opened for public use, and the same day the first horse fair was held in Stockton, and a public cattle show very numerously attended, and rewards distributed.—*Brewster.*



AT BARNARD CASTLE.

CHAPTER XIII.



BETWEEN one and two o'clock on the morning, of the 3rd of October, 1824, the iron foundry of Messrs. Guthrie and Co., of Tweedmouth, was discovered to be on fire. Notwithstanding the utmost exertions on the part of the inhabitants, with the water-engine from Berwick, the fire continued its progress until about five o'clock, when with difficulty it was got under, after destroying

a great part of the building.—*Local Papers.*

October 5.—A grand musical festival commenced at Newcastle, which lasted four days. It was composed of some of the first vocal and instrumental performers in the kingdom. The numbers of persons who attended the different morning's performances were as follows, viz:—on Wednesday, 1,437; on Thursday (an extremely wet day), 849; and on Friday, 1,451. There was also, on this occasion, a grand ball at the Assembly rooms. The Chevalier Valabrague (husband to Madame Catalani), undertook this festival at his own risk, engaging to give one-fifth of the entire receipts to the public charities. This engagement, however, it seems he afterwards repented of, and having expressed to the committee his conviction that he should be a loser by the speculation, he succeeded in inducing them to give up to him the whole of the receipts at the ball, thus putting into his own pocket £65 6s. of the money he had promised the charities! The prices of admission to the ball had moreover been raised from 6s. 6d. (the usual charge) to 10s., on the application of the Chevalier, who required this advance on account of the superior band he should engage. The band, however, that attended was very inferior indeed to that which usually performed at the Newcastle assem-

blies; and the company generally expressed the greatest dissatisfaction with it. Had not Mr. Richardson, the master, and one or two other members of the ordinary band, been present, it is believed that the music called for could not have been performed. Upon the whole it is certain that Monsieur Valabrugue made a good thing of the festival. The public charities of Newcastle, Durham, and Northumberland, received among them £768 8s. 4d.; and the Chevalier got the remainder, amounting to £3,400 3s. 8d., out of which he had to pay the expences; and these, looking to the smallness of the number of performers, could not be very considerable.—*Local Papers*.

1824 (Oct. 5.)—A hay and straw market was established in Newcastle, to be holden on the Parade Ground, at the head of Percy-street, on the Tuesday in every week.—*Ibid*.

October 10.—One of the severest storms of wind and rain ever remembered took place in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. It continued without intermission for nearly twenty-four hours. The rain fell in torrents, and laid considerable tracts of land under water. Much damage was done on the banks of the river Wear, by its rising to a tremendous height; but the most fatal and destructive effects were felt at sea and along the coast, when 200 vessels were cast away.—*Ibid*.

October 12.—One of that rare species of birds called the Great Northern Diver, was shot on the river Tyne, near Newcastle, Quay, by a keelman. Various ineffectual attempts were made by different persons above the bridge to secure it. The storm on the 10th and 11th was supposed to have driven this unfortunate visitor from its northern haunts, as not one of this species had ever been seen so far south before.—*Ibid*.

October 19.—A hay and straw market was established in Sunderland, to be held in the High-street, on the Tuesday in each week.—*Ibid*.

October 23.—About nine o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. John Rennison, bookseller, Berwick, which consumed a considerable quantity of stock in the wareroom where it originated, and before it could be got under, communicated to a bedroom adjoining; by the prompt attendance of the engines, the fire was in the course of about three hours extinguished. It was occasioned by the shop-boy going up to the wareroom with a candle, from which a spark had reached some loose papers.—*Ibid*.

October 25.—A prize fight for twenty sovereigns a side between two young men of Newcastle, named James Wallace, a bricklayer, and Thomas Dunn, a butcher, was fought on Barlow Fell, near Ryton, in the county of Durham. It was computed, that at this

disgraceful scene there were not less than 2,000 persons, who evinced much disappointment at the speedy victory obtained by the bricklayer over his antagonist. After the eighth round, in all of which Wallace proved his superiority, time was called, and he was declared the victor. On the morning and at night Newcastle exhibited great agitation. The chaise which conveyed Dunn to the field, ran over an old man and broke both his legs, which caused his death a short time after.

Local Papers.

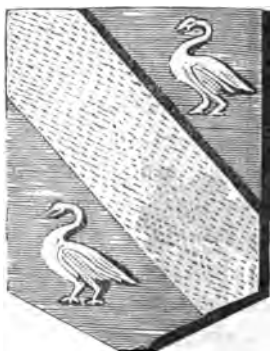
1824 (Oct. 25).—An explosion took place in the George Pit, Lumley, when fourteen human beings were launched into eternity.—*Ibid.*

November 1.—Died at North Sunderland, Northumberland, Elizabeth Gregory, widow, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

November 5.—Nearly fifty vessels were wrecked on the dangerous rocks near Hawthorn Dene, on the coast of Durham, together with all their crews, excepting that belonging to the ship Dido, which was wrecked betwixt two rocks, about thirty yards from the shore, where the late major George Anderson, of Newcastle, who witnessed the distressing scene, had collected all his servants in order to render every possible assistance to the unfortunate mariners, who, having lost their mainmast, foremast, and rudder, collected themselves upon the bowsprit, and made several fruitless attempts to throw a rope to the shore; fortunately, however, the major had an excellent Newfoundland dog, which by encouragement, after several attempts, succeeded in catching hold of the rope, and brought it through the raging surges to the major and his servants, who held it till all the crew (fourteen in number) had escaped from the foaming gulph, which threatened them with destruction. The crew having been refreshed with every necessary comfort at the major's house, departed after gratefully thanking their preservers; and so affected were the feelings of the captain's wife, that on the following day she visited Hawthorn Hive cottage, the major's residence, where she, with streaming eyes, expressed her gratitude, and falling upon her knees, kissed the dog which has been so essentially instrumental in saving her husband and the crew.—*Ibid.*

November 5.—About twelve o'clock at night, the water corn-mill at Chester-le-street, in the occupation of Messrs. Croudace, Smith, and Wight, was discovered to be on fire, the flames bursting through the doors, windows, &c. A number of the inhabitants promptly repaired to the spot to render assistance; there being no engine in the town, some of them immediately went to Lambton-hall, and brought the engine belonging to J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P., but too late to render any assistance, as the roof and the upper lofts fell in about two o'clock, a very fortunate circumstance for the proprietors of the other

buildings near the mill, as a large thatched house, the mill stables, and other buildings were within ten yards. The machinery had all been put up new about four or five months before. There were about fifty sacks of flour dressed, a quantity of dressed wheat, and upwards of six hundred bolls of corn. The loss was supposed to be between £1,400 and £1,600. No part was insured. The water wheels were the only part saved from the devouring element.—*Local Papers.*



1824.—Died, at Heidelberg, in Germany, Francis count Jenison Walworth, eldest son of Francis Jenison, esq., of Walworth, in Heighington, county Durham, where he was born February 8, 1764. On the retirement of his father and family to the Continent in 1776, after the sale of their property, he accompanied them thither, and was established with them at Heidelberg, became successively page and colonel of the Guards to the elector palatine, afterwards colonel in the service of Hesse Darmstadt, from which court at the commencement of the war in 1793 and when the princes of Germany were subsidized by Great Britain, he was appointed envoy to the court of St. James's, and was entrusted with the negotiations which ensued respecting the continuance of the Hessian troops in the English pay, and concluded a treaty with the late marquis of Hertford, then earl of Yarmouth, by which the stipulated contingents to the first coalition of the continental states against revolutionary France, was regulated and detailed. Subsequent to the marriage of the late king of Wurtemberg with the princess royal, he was selected for the office of grand chamberlain of the household at Stuttgart, a station to which the superiority of his polished manners and refined address peculiarly qualified him; he remained in this dignity till the death of the king, and was high in the confidence of both their majesties. Count Jenison married Mary, eldest daughter of the late celebrated Topham Beauclerk, the intimate friend of Johnson, Goldsmith, and Burke, by lady Diana Spencer, eldest sister of the late duke of Marlborough. By this lady (who inherited her mother's talents for painting and the arts) he left six children, viz. two sons and four daughters, besides a son by a former marriage, now (1824) ambassador from Bavaria to the king of Naples.—*Gent's Mag.*

While the workmen were engaged in clearing away the earth which had accumulated in and over the ditch on the outside of Carliol tower, Newcastle, they found several skeletons huddled together, and in the skull of one of them a cannon ball. These have evidently



CARLIOL TOWER, INNER-FACE (1825).

been slain Scots which after the siege of 1644, were thrown into the ditch, and covered with earth to hide and rot their bodies. During these operations, and while forming the outer windows, there was found just over one of the balistrariæ a cannon ball, lodged two and a half feet deep in the wall. It was sadly rusted, and weighed 22½ lbs, allowing for waste it had probably been a twenty-four-pounder. Several other cannon shots were found of various weights.—*MS. Col.*

1824 (Nov. 7).—A fire broke out in the cabin of the ship *Emerald*, captain Pringle, when moored off the Custom-house quay, North Shields. It was discovered from the excise-office, and the alarm given. With the assistance of the crew of the *Fleetwood*, of London, and others, it was got under without much damage.—*Local Papers.*

November 8.—A letter from captain Davidson, of the ship *North-umberland*, of North Shields, to the owner, stated the following fact : the ship was lying at Sierra Leone :—" On the 8th of November, 1824, one of our crew being on the bowsprit fishing, dropped his knife overboard. He made a great deal of work about it, but judge his surprise, when on the same afternoon he caught a dolphin with the identical knife in its belly. The fish was cut up in my presence, and I saw the knife taken out."—*Local Rec.*

1824 (Nov. 18).—A meeting was held at Alnwick to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Mechanics' Institution for the instruction and improvement of the operative classes. The object of the meeting having been laid before his grace the duke of Northumberland, his grace, with his wonted liberality, approved of it, and became its patron. The right honourable earl Grey also became its president. June 22nd, 1831, the foundation stone of a new building for this institution was laid in the Green Bat, in that town with great ceremony, by John Lambert, esq., who generously presented the society with the site for the building.—*Local Papers*.

The same evening Hexham was first lighted with oil lamps.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—An explosion took place in the Dolly pit, Newbottle colliery, which proved fatal to the eight deputy overmen and wastemen who were below at the time; and also to three of five others who afterwards descended in search of the dead bodies. A partition which divided the shaft (it being a double one) was blown from its situation and fell to the bottom.—*Ibid*.

On the evening of the same day a quantity of gunpowder having been accidentally ignited in the shop of Mr. Archbold, grocer in Wooler, caused a tremendous explosion, by which the windows of the shop were driven out, and those of the second and third story of the same house, and also those of the adjoining house were broken. Some rolls of Spanish juice were driven to the opposite side of the street, by which several squares of glass were broken. Mr. Archbold's eyes were much injured by the powder.—*Ibid*.

November 24.—Died, at Throckley Fell, Ann Jamieson, aged 102 years. She resided at Bamborough 58 years, and was one of the greatest spinners of the north; and what was remarkable, during the last twelve months of her life she spun upwards of forty yards of cloth for the use of her son, although she had been blind for above three years; and it was with the greatest difficulty she could be kept from her wheel on the morning of her death.—*Gent's Mag*.

December 6.—The new branch of the turnpike road from Tyne-bridge to Durham, by Potticar-lane, at the head of Gateshead, and the Low Fell, to avoid the great elevation of the hill-top over which the old road went, was commenced making. The royal mail first passed along this road, June 17th, 1826.—*Local Papers*.

December 7.—About four o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the carpet manufactory of Messrs. Harrison, Crosby, Dunn and Co., at Barnardcastle; the wind at the time blowing very strong from the west, caused the flames to increase very rapidly and endanger the whole street, but fortunately, in a few minutes, the wind ceased, and by the great exertions of the neighbours, the fire was got under, but

not till nearly the whole premises were destroyed. Many of the windows on the opposite side of the street were broken, and several families near the place removed their goods and children, many of them nearly naked. The loss was estimated at £1,500., and no part was insured.—*Local Papers.*

December 10.—The out-houses at Balkwell, near North Shields, belonging to Mr. Richard Cowell, were discovered to be on fire, when the barn, with a thrashing machine, a byer and a stable in which was a fine young horse, were consumed. The stack-garth and dwelling-house, by the prompt exertions of the neighbouring farmers, were saved from the devouring element. This was supposed to be the act of an incendiary, as a short time before, a hay stack was set on fire, which Mr. Cowell was positive could not have originated from accident, and had therefore kept a watch every night till that on which the last conflagration happened.—*Ibid.*

December 25.—The wind blew, with short intervals of calm, a perfect hurricane for several days, and the snow, sleet, rain, and frost followed each other with astonishing rapidity. The river Tyne was swollen to a great extent. The villages by the water side were all more or less inundated. At Blaydon the water rushed into one house in such a torrent, that it was found to be seven feet deep, and the inmates were obliged to be taken out by a boat from the window! A butcher in the village had two sheep lost. The coaches were all delayed by the state of the roads. On the above day the horses had to swim with the True Briton coach across the river at Corbridge. It was four hours behind its usual time of arrival at Newcastle from Carlisle. The Carlisle mail, which ought to have reached Newcastle at seven o'clock at night, did not arrive till half-past eleven o'clock on the following morning, as they were obliged to stop all night at Hexham, not deeming it safe to cross the bridge, or rather the river at Corbridge.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—The foundation stone of a Presbyterian chapel in connection with the United Secession church of Scotland, was laid in the Newbottle road, near Houghton-le-Spring, by George Robinson, esq., of that place, in the presence of part of the congregation.—*Ibid.*

December.—“The Port of Newcastle Association for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck,” was formed. By this association are provided life-boats, Manby's apparatus, Dennett's rockets, rope-ladders, and other means to be used under the management of experienced persons, at appointed stations, for the protection of life from shipwreck, and rewards granted for the preservation of seamen in time of danger.—*M.S. Col.*

1824 (December 30).—Died, at Rothbury, Christian Long, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.



CRYPT—CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS (1842).

December.—This month, a spacious vaulted chapel or crypt,* immediately beneath the great window of the north transept of St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle, and which had formerly been appropriated as a charnel house, was cleared out with a view to its removal. The roof of the vault is semicircular, composed of flat stones and strengthened by a series of five bold longitudinal ribs, and was approached by a pointed arched doorway on the western exterior of the transept.

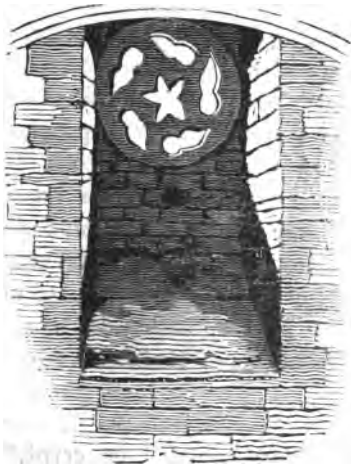


On its east side is a remarkably fine circular window of five compartments and formed of one stone. There have also been four other lights on the north side, which were closed up when the large window was erected in the early part of the same year. In the south wall and near the east end is a very curious piscina† with an arch formed of two blocks of stone. The length of the vault from east to west, is twenty

* Crypt—aptly so named from a Greek word, signifying—to hide—being below the floor of the building of which it formed a part. A vault, (when under a church,) sometimes used as a chapel, as an oratory, as a confessional, as a baptistery, as the burial place of a martyr, or saint, and even as a catacomb; but the former are its recognized appliances.—*Bloxam, &c.*

† Piscina—a niche on the south side of the altar in Roman Catholic Churches, con-

three feet and the breadth from north to south, eleven feet. This has undoubtedly been one of the ancient chantries* of the church, and there is good reason to fix here the site of that of St. Catherine, originally founded by Allan Durham, and which had a second foundation or augmentation in the reign of Edward III. From the appear-



ance of the east window already mentioned, and the stones remaining near it on the outside of the vault, we are induced to consider them not only as having formed part of the exterior wall of the transept previous to the erection of St. George's Porch, but that the vault itself may probably have been part of the original church, as from its peculiarly massy and solid construction, it was not unlikely to survive the conflagration of 1216. Two other circumstances may also be adduced, as favouring the idea, viz :

that the walls of the transept, both east and west have been built upon the flat stones, forming part of the roof of the chapel ; and that there are no grooves for the reception of glass, in any part of the window above mentioned, from which circumstance it may be conjectured to have been in existence previous to the introduction of that material into this country, or at least before it had been generally adopted.† The intention of removing the crypt was abandoned, and both the window and the entrance to the vault closed with masonry.—*MS. Col.*

1824.—Wallis street Independent chapel, South Shields, founded.

taining a small basin in which the priest washed his hands, and beneath it, a water drain through which he poured the impure water, as also (when occasion required it,) that in which the chalice had been rinsed, as well as all the consecrated water remaining from the service. These niches frequently have a shelf across them, on which the cup was placed. *Lavatory*—is a term as frequently and as properly applied to designate these niches.—(*Bloxam, &c*).

These were small chapels attached to, or forming a part of the church, separately appropriated by their founders, for the chaunting of masses for the dead, and usually containing the tomb of the founder, and of others of his family.

† In fact it is quite evident from several other parts of the church that the whole structure was not destroyed in the fire alluded to. A reference to the early history of the church will afford a further confirmation of this idea, as we are told it was not finished rebuilding until the year 1359, whereas the justices itinerant occur as holding their courts in some part of the church, nearly a century before that period.

The register of births and baptisms, containing 83 entries, extends from 1824 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1824.—Wesleyan Methodist's chapel, Stockton on Tees (Durham and York), founded. The register of births and baptisms, 21 entries, extending from 1824 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

1825 (Jan. 5).—The Antiquarian society of Newcastle, held their twelfth anniversary meeting in the rooms provided for their accommodation in the new erection of the Literary and Philosophical Society in Westgate street, James Losh, esq., one of the vice-presidents, in the chair. John Anderson, esq., treasurer, read a very interesting report to a numerous attendance.—*Local Papers.*

February 2.—In the night of this day (Wednesday), there was a tremendous hurricane, which did considerable damage to chimneys, buildings, and shipping. It was followed next day by a most extraordinary high tide. At Newcastle the river rose above the quay, on which boats were floated, and several houses on both sides of the river Tyne were inundated, keels sunk, and floats of timber set adrift. By the tide of Friday morning, several cellars in the lower parts of Shields were filled, and other damage sustained; but the greatest sufferer was Mr. Wall, of the Low lights, North Shields, ship-builder. The sea breaking heavily upon the quay in front of the building-yard, washed the same away, and two vessels on the stocks, the one intended for a brig of about 120 tons, timbered and partly planked, and the other a sloop nearly finished, were washed off, and the larger vessel laid a complete wreck. The sloop was, by the praiseworthy exertions of several of the inhabitants and seamen of the town, with much difficulty got into a place of safety, but not without receiving much damage, and in the whole, it was calculated that Mr. Wall had sustained a loss of nearly £700. A subscription was commenced for the sufferer. The ground washed away at the Low-lights, was almost beyond belief. Part of the wall in front of Clifford's-fort, also gave way, over which the sea broke with tremendous fury; nor were the banks and rocks at the extremity of Cullercoats sands, able to withstand the impetuosity of the waves. A huge rock, which projected like a canopy, fell to the ground, and an inroad of several feet into the slaty bank, was visible. At Seaton Sluice, the tide was the highest ever remembered by the eldest inhabitant. The wind blew a heavy gale from the northward, and the sea was tremendously high, which, with the tide, threatened at one time to destroy the harbour. A breach was made by the sea through one of the piers, but by very great exertions it was repaired before the next tide. The whole of the east side of the stone pier was destroyed, and the entrance to the old harbour blocked up. The vessels in the port, fortunately did not

sustain any damage. At Blyth also, the tide rose to an unprecedented height. A house adjoining Mr. Hutchinson's school, was washed down, and the inmates, six in number, narrowly escaped being drowned. The poor woman of the house had only been brought to bed the preceding evening. Great praise was due to lieutenant Hall, R. N., and to Mr. John Campbell, for their benevolence and humanity to the poor sufferers. At Newbigging, considerable damage was also done by the same storm. The tide was extremely high at Sunderland, and accompanied by a tremendous sea, which caused great destruction to the cliffs at the edge of the moor, immense portions of which were washed away; the sea rushed up the banks with such force, as in many places to extend twenty yards on the moor. The ship Brancepath castle, in making the harbour, carried away a great portion of the temporary pier; and on the following day, the remainder of the pier was carried away by a Scots brig; both vessels were injured.—*Local Papers.*

1825 (Feb. 6).—A new chapel belonging to the Baptists, called Salem chapel, was first opened for divine service at South Shields, and sermons were preached by captain Gardiner, and the rev. J. Stratton, of Sunderland, after which the sum of £16. 8s. 6d. was collected in aid of the building fund.—*Ibid.*

February 13.—Died, at Stockton-upon-Tees, William Sleigh, esq., aged 66, a lieut. col. in the army, and one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Durham. In very early life col. Sleigh entered the army. He went into the 19th regiment of foot, in August, 1775; was made lieutenant, 1778, and captain in 1780. His regiment was ordered to North America during the war with the colonies, which he accompanied; and soon after he was engaged in two actions, one of which was at Eutaws, in North Carolina, in 1781. After his return to England in 1785, he married Ann, the only child and heiress of John Ward, esq., of Billingham, who survived him, without issue. In 1790, he became captain of the 23rd regiment, and in 1794, lieutenant-colonel of the 83rd. He afterwards (having retired from the army), accepted the commission of major in the Durham regiment of militia: and, subsequently, was appointed inspecting colonel of volunteers. His last service was commander of volunteer cavalry in his own district: and in all these services he acquitted himself as an experienced and judicious officer. In his youth colonel Sleigh, after being removed from a private school, finished his education under the superintendence of the rev. Hugh Moises, the distinguished master of the grammar-school, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Here colonel Sleigh imbibed a taste for classical learning, which he cultivated to the end of his life.—*Gent's Mag.*

1825 (Feb. 20).—A neat and commodious Methodist chapel was opened at Sadberge, near Darlington by Messrs. Atkinson and Noel, local preachers at the latter place.—*Local Papers*.

February 23.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of North and South Shields, was held at the Northumberland Arms inn, North Shields, when it was resolved to erect an iron bridge of suspension over the river Tyne, between these towns. Captain Samuel Brown, R. N., the original projector of suspension bridges, having made the necessary surveys, gave in his estimate of £93,000., which the gentlemen friendly to the project determined should be disposed of in shares of £100. each and in consequence, plans and elevations were engraved and shares disposed of. The late William Chapman, esq., of Newcastle, civil engineer, made several reports, and Mr. Telford, of London, was also consulted, both of which gentlemen confirmed its practicability; yet this project has been laid aside, and two steam ferries have since been established.—*Ibid*.

February 26.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Grace Cummins, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

March 3.—Died, between Mount Sinai and Tor, on the Red Sea, the rev. Joseph Cook, M. A. Fellow of Christ's college, Cambridge, and younger son of the rev. Joseph Cook, of Newton-hall, Northumberland. After spending some years in the University, with the highest credit and honour to himself, and having proceeded B. A. 1813, M. A. 1816, he went to the continent in 1820. He visited Holland, France, Germany, and Switzerland, and resided four years in Italy, devoting his time to the public performance of his clerical duties at the English chapel at Rome, and that of the Ambassador at Naples, and to the study and contemplation of the interesting objects with which those classical shores abound; and having qualified himself for a full and minute examination of those regions, doubly interesting as being the sources of both sacred and profane history, he set out from Malta in August 1824, on a tour to Egypt and the Holy Land, accompanied by Dr. Bromhead, of Cambridge, and Mr. Lewis, of the navy. Having penetrated beyond the second cataract of the Nile, the party returned to Cairo, from whence they proceeded to Mount Sinai. The fatigue of this journey, the inclemency of the weather, and the privations inseparable from travelling in those countries, so weakened him (although he left Cairo apparently in perfect health), that after stopping a few days at Mount Sinai to recruit his strength, he was unable to reach Tor, and, under circumstances fraught with the most deep and awful interest, expired on his camel in the Pass Wady Hebram, near Mount Serbal. His remains were deposited by his companions in the burying-ground of a Greek church, near the Wells

of Elim, a spot which he had expressed the most anxious wish to visit, and which, to use the words of his friend, Dr. Bromhead, "Could he have foreseen his fate, he would probably have selected as his last earthly abode."—*Gent's. Mag.*

1825 (March 12).—In the night, Etal mill, near Wooler, occupied by Mr. George Oswald, was burnt down. The origin of the fire could not be accounted for.—*Local Papers.*



ETAL CASTLE (1836).

March 19.—Died, at Hampstead, sir Ralph Noel, of Halnaby, county York, and the county of Durham, bart. He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father, sir Ralph Milbanke, of Halnaby, bart., 8th January 1798, and represented the county of Durham in five successive parliaments. On retiring from the representation of the county, in 1812, he received a unanimous vote of thanks from his constituents for his faithful services in parliament. He married Judith, eldest daughter of Thomas viscount Wentworth, on whose death he was permitted by royal licence, 29th May, 1815, to use the surname of Noel only. His only daughter and heiress, Anne Isabella, married George Gordon lord Byron, 2nd January 1815, by whom she had an only daughter Ada.

"Ada! sole daughter of my house and heart."

Sharp's Knts of Dur.

March.—Labourers employed in digging for gravel in a field at Hartburn, near Stockton, discovered two human skeletons, one at the depth of two feet, the other at the depth of four feet, and about ten yards asunder. From the appearance of the bones, it was evident they had lain long in the ground, and had been full grown persons.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

1825 (April 10).—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Elspeth Manners, aged 102 years. About twelve months before her death she had a great toe amputated, and bore the operation with great firmness.—*Local Papers.*

April 11.—“The Stockton, Yarm, and Norton Institution for the instruction of Mechanics, and for the promotion of useful knowledge,” was founded.—*Brewster.*

May 1.—His grace the duke of Northumberland, had an audience with his majesty, and took his leave preparatory to his grace's embassy to Paris, to be present at the coronation of the king of France, as the representative of the king of England. The next day, their graces the duke and duchess with their suite, left Northumberland house, and arrived at Canterbury the same evening, whence they proceeded to Bourne-place, the residence of the honourable archdeacon Percy, where they dined and slept, and proceeded the following morning to Dover. His grace's suite which consisted of ten carriages, had arrived there the day before. His grace was received with every demonstration of respect, and the usual discharge of artillery from the heights. A numerous retinue of servants and horses had arrived at Payne's York hotel, some days previous, His majesty's steam vessels the Lightning and Comet, had arrived in the harbour a day or two before, for the purpose of conveying the duke across the channel, and in which his grace and suite embarked amidst the huzzas of thousands of the spectators, who thronged the pier heads. On leaving the harbour, the cannon again resounded from the batteries, to which the Brazen, man-of-war, lying in the roads, and intended as a convoy, commanded by captain George Willis, replied, by firing a royal salute as the steam vessels approached her.—*Local Papers.*

May 1.—Died, at Cullercoats, Mrs. Mary Barnes, widow, aged 101 years.—*Ibid.*

May 3.—The foundation stone of the north pier of an intended chain bridge, over the river Tyne, at the west boat, near Hexham, was laid.—*Ibid.*

May 11.—Messrs. C. and G. Green, ascended in the car attached to their magnificent balloon, from the Nun's-field, in Newcastle, amidst an immense concourse of spectators. The day being cloudy they were soon out of sight, but to gratify the spectators, they descended so as to be again visible, they then ascended and taking a north west direction, alighted near Newbiggen, about four miles, west from Newcastle; On the 23rd, these gentlemen again ascended from the same place, but from an accident in the valve, it was with difficulty that they reached a field near the white lead works at Low Elswick, near Newcastle. The balloon having dragged the car over

a wall and through a hedge, all its splendid decorations were torn off it and nothing left but the wicker work. Failing in this attempt, these gentlemen again ascended on the 30th of the same month. The balloon rose most majestically from the Nun's-field, in an almost perpendicular direction to a great height, and bore away to the south, crossing the whole county of Durham, and finally alighted near the Tontine inn, Yorkshire, a distance of forty-eight miles from Newcastle. The daring *aéronauts* having secured the balloon, proceeded to Stockton, where they were greeted on their arrival by an immense multitude of people. June 16th, Messrs. Green ascended from Stockton. The balloon took a westerly direction for about four miles, when it met with a counter current, which brought it back again over the town, where it appeared stationary as if for the double gratification of the great concourse of people assembled at that place to witness it. It then bore away rapidly for the mouth of the river Tees, but meeting with another current, it was carried in the direction of Acklam-hall, between which place and Morton, the intrepid voyagers landed in perfect safety, after being absent from the earth forty-five minutes. July 5th, Mr. George Green ascended from the Palace-green, in the city of Durham. The weather being fine, a great concourse of people had assembled. The balloon, though not above half inflated with gas, ascended a few minutes after four o'clock, and had a most beautiful appearance. It took a south-eastern direction, and after remaining in the air for about thirteen minutes, descended in a field of wheat on the estate of John Gregson, at Whitwell Grange, about three miles from Durham. The descent was seen with the naked eye, by several spectators from the city. A post chaise and four, which was dispatched immediately after the descent, returned to Durham with Mr. Green and a friend, soon after six o'clock. The greatest elevation of the balloon during this short voyage was 2,200 feet as proved by the fluctuation of the mercury. July 14th, Messrs. G. and W. Green made a fourth ascent from the Nun's-field, in Newcastle. The *aéronauts* left the earth about ten minutes before one o'clock, and immediately took a north easterly direction. When they were at the greatest height, the balloon remained stationary for near ten minutes; and after being in the atmosphere for twenty minutes, having a distinct view of the sea, which appeared almost perpendicularly under them, they deemed it prudent to descend. This appeared the more necessary as they observed the wind below them was from the south-west. The *aéronauts* landed with ease and safety, in a field a mile from Long Benton. This ascent was not surpassed by any of the former exhibitions, in dignity and splendour; and the clearness of the atmosphere enabled the eye to follow the adventurers

to a painful height, while the dazzling effulgence of the sun made the spectacle almost too brilliant to behold.—*Local Papers.*

1825 (May 21).—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, after a lingering illness, Thomas Charlton Sykes, a native of that town in the 22nd year of his age. He possessed a bold, vigorous, and well-cultivated mind, a rapid conception of ideas, and a fine poetic taste, which gave promise of future excellence, but a delicate constitution, unadapted to the sedentary habits he had acquired through a love of study, gradually gave way and destroyed his earthly prospects. After a lingering illness, which he bore with great composure and resignation, he expired without a struggle at the early age of 21, deeply lamented by his friends, and regretted by all who knew him.—*Dur. Adv.*

1825 (June 8).—The foundation stone of a new light-house, erected by the Trinity board of Newcastle, was laid on the Longstone rock, one of the Farn islands, on the coast of Northumberland. February 15th, 1826, the light was exhibited for the first time in this new light-house.—*Local Papers.*



THE FARN LIGHT (1838).

June 15.—The foundation stone of a new bridge at the confluence of the rivulets at the head of the Old Burn-lane, Hexham, was laid in masonic form by Mr. Matthew Wilson, saddler, amidst a great number of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.—*Ibid.*

June 20.—The infant school at the Orphan-house, in Newcastle, was opened, and upwards of seventy children from two to five-and-a-half years of age were entered. Other infant schools have since been established at Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

1825 (June 23).—The foundation of the new building for the Lying-in hospital was laid in Bridge-street, Newcastle. The elevations, details, and specifications of the several works were gratuitously supplied by John Dobson, esq., architect; the building is exceedingly chaste, and well adapted for the purpose intended, in the style of English architecture which prevailed about three centuries ago. There is an oriel window in front; and the ornamented canopy sills are very finely executed. The expense of the building and fitting up amounted to £1,550. The average number of patients for the last twenty years has been sixty-eight.—*MS. Col.*



June 26.—About half-past two o'clock in the morning (Sunday) an alarming fire was discovered in the manufactory of Mr. Harvey, tobacconist, head of the Side, Newcastle. Engines were sent for with all possible dispatch, and they continued to play till about half-past five o'clock, when, by great exertions, the fire was overcome. The presses and a cutting-machine were destroyed, and the whole of the building, from the ground-floor to the roof, was entirely consumed. It was with the greatest difficulty that Mr. Harvey's shop, and Mr. Wylie's flax-warehouse, adjoining, were preserved from the flames. The premises fronting to the street are represented in the above cut,

and it is the house in which lord Collingwood is said to have been born.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1825 (July 3).—This evening, an explosion took place in the Juliet pit, belonging to Messrs. Lamb and Co., at Harraton Outside, near Chester-le-street, by which dreadful accident eleven human beings lost their lives, and all the horses down the shaft were destroyed. Had it happened a few hours later, the number of pitmen and boys in the mine would have been forty or fifty. No cause could be assigned for this lamentable catastrophe.—*Ibid.*

The Scotch church at Hexham was built, and opened for divine worship July 8th; the rev. James Richardson being the minister. The congregation under a long succession of Presbyterian ministers had worshipped previously in an old and inconvenient building on Gilligate bank, commonly called the Whig meeting. There was formerly another congregation of this creed in Hexham, who had their meeting-house at the Sandy foundation, near the Hall-orchard. James Richardson died, December 11th, 1830, in his fortieth year, deeply regretted, he was succeeded by William Nixon, Robt. Carswell, and Jas. Blair. The edifice is a good substantial building, in a choice situation,—the junction of the Battle-hill and Hencotes with the Seal. The site was given by T. W. Beaumont, esq., but the building and law expenses were costly, and created a debt which crushed the minister, and continues to embarrass the people. A division took place on the appointment of Mr. Nixon, which originated the Secession church at Hexham.—*Jos Ridley's MSS.*

July 26.—Died, at Preston, near North Shields, Mrs Mary Verdy, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

July.—About three o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in the Cumberland, a trader between Newcastle and London, which was then lying in the river Tyne, off South Shields, with a valuable cargo of goods for the latter port. There was about £2000 worth of whale-bone belonging to one gentleman on board, besides lead and other goods. The origin of the fire was unknown, but it was conjectured that a quantity of charcoal in the hold had ignited. By great exertions the vessel was got over the river to the Dortwich sand, on the north side, but all attempts to extinguish the flames were unavailing till she was reduced to a shell. and the greater part of the goods was destroyed.—*Local Rec.*

August 3.—In consequence of existing differences between the shipowners and seamen of the port of Sunderland, the latter, on the above day, attempted forcibly to prevent ships going out to sea, when a most melancholy affair took place. A ship called the Busy, was going out with a number of special constables on board, to protect

the crew, when the men assembled in great numbers, and attempted to prevent her by boarding. They soon overpowered the civil force, when a troop of the 3rd Light dragoons from the barracks at Newcastle, who had been sent for some time before, to assist in preserving the peace on the river Wear, were called upon to assist the magistrates in getting the ship out to sea. They succeeded in driving the intruders out of the ship, but in passing the north sand where ships are obliged to keep in shore, those on board were assailed with stones and other missiles, from a numerous mob of men and women, which they bore with patience a considerable time, but one of the soldiers having been severely wounded in the face, they were ordered to fire in their own defence, which they did at first over the heads of the rioters, but without the desired effect. Seven or eight shots were then fired at the crowd, by which three men were killed, and another was mortally wounded, and died next morning. Several were wounded. After this affray the town remained in great commotion for some time, but, more military having been procured from the barracks at Newcastle, the mob dispersed without any further mischief. The names of the four men who were killed were William Wallace, Thomas Aird, John Dovor, and Ralph Hunter Creighton. The coroner's verdict upon the three former was *justifiable homicide*; but, upon the latter, who was a carpenter, a verdict was returned of *accidental death*, he not being engaged in the riot, but a spectator. In a day or two after, another man, a labourer, died, in consequence of having received a shot when going from his work.—*Local Papers*.

1825 (August 17).—Died, at Monkwearmouth-shore, Margaret Nichol, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

August 19.—Died, in the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor-chare, Newcastle, of which he was governor, aged 68, Mr. John Marshall. He was the only son of a respectable timber merchant in Newcastle, had many rich relatives, and was cousin to the rev. George Walker, F.R.S. His classical education was completed at the grammar-school of this town, under the superintendence of the rev. Hugh Moises, M. A. Unfortunately, his parents died while he was a youth; and his property gradually melted away, in consequence of a series of imprudent speculations. Being, as he expressed it, "jilted by Dame Fortune, and deserted by his summer friends," he embraced a seafaring life. Tiring of this, he joined the profession of teachers, the members of which are finely delineated in his "Portrait of a Village Pedagogue." In 1804, he performed his "Walk from Newcastle to Keswick," where he was hospitably received by his friend, Mr. Crossthwaite, proprietor of the Museum of Natural and Artificial Curiosities, and who procured him a vacant school in the re-

tired vale of Newlands. About a year afterwards, by the recommendation of the curate of Buttermere, he became the Pedagogue of Loweswater, where, with his reverend friend, he smoked "the pipe of peace," and drank home-brewed ale, in the neat cottage of Mary of Buttermere. After this he kept a school at Morpeth, at Murton, and at Newburn; but his want of prudence, his love of convivial company, and his increasing age, compelled him, in 1819, to seek shelter in the Westgate hospital, whence he was removed to Jesus' hospital. He was a good classical scholar, and understood French and some of the other modern languages. Besides his Village Pedagogue, he was author of several lesser pieces of poetry, that display considerable taste and fancy.—*Mackenzie*.

1825 (August 29).—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a new chapel of ease at East Rainton, in the parish of Houghton-le-spring, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers*.

September 1.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated the new church of Falstone, in the county of Northumberland. This is one of the livings into which the large rectory of Simonburn, was divided by act of parliament.—*Ibid*.



BLYTH CHURCH (1836).

September 6.—Died, at Blyth, Northumberland, Mr. William Carr, blacksmith. He was born at Hartley Old Engine, on the 3rd of April 1766. At the early age of eleven years he was apprentised to his father. At 17 he measured 6 feet 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, and weighed 16 stones; he could lift seven or eight hundred weight with ease. At 30 years of age he weighed 24 stones, and stood 6 feet 4 inches high. At this period he is said to have carried an anchor weighing 10

hundred weight, from the sands to his father's shop for repairs. By his frequent and violent exertions of this nature at a period of life when most men are usually in their prime, he became quite enfeebled, and unable to sustain his immense body. For some time he supported himself with the aid of sticks, but nature at length refused to be supplied in this way, and he finally took to his bed, where for several years he lay and was seldom moved. Distressed in mind, and weakened in body, this once Herculean and stupendous being closed his existence in the sixtieth year of his age.—*Mem. of Wm. Carr.*

1825 (Sep. 12).—His royal highness the duke of Brunswick and suite passed through Newcastle from Scotland.—*Local Papers.*

September 16.—About half past ten o'clock at night, a person having the appearance of a porter, brought a travelling trunk to the Turf hotel coach-office, in Collingwood street, Newcastle, where it was left for the purpose of being forwarded the following morning to Edinburgh. The address it bore was "James Syme, esq., 6, Forth-street, Edinburgh," but in consequence of its having been deposited in that part of the office where packages were placed for the south coach, and no coaches going north on the Sunday, it was detained till the Monday, when a most noxious smell was felt from a liquid oozing therefrom. When the trunk was opened by order of the magistrates, it was found to contain the body of a young woman supposed to be about 19 years of age, of fair complexion, light eyes and yellow hair, and without any marks of violence. A similar package which arrived by the Telegraph coach from Leeds, on the night of January 6, 1826, containing the dead body of a woman, whose stature must have exceeded six feet; and another, brought from beyond York, on the 15th of the same month, in which was the body of a man, were detained and opened at the same office. Coroner's inquests were held in each case, after which the bodies were interred.—*Ibid.*

September 27.—The Stockton and Darlington railway was formally opened by the proprietors for the use of the public. It is 25 miles in length. To give éclat to the public opening of the road a programme was issued, stating that the proprietors would assemble at the permanent engine below Brusselton Tower, about nine miles west of Darlington, at eight o'clock. Accordingly the committee assembled at the bottom of Brusselton engine plane, near West Auckland, and here the carriages loaded with coals and merchandise, were drawn up the eastern ridge, by the Brusselton engine, a distance of 1960 yards, in $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, and then lowered down the plane on the east side of the hill, 880 yards in 5 minutes. At the foot of the plane the locomotive engine was ready to receive the carriages, and here the novelty of the scene, and the fineness of the day, had attracted an

immense concourse of spectators, the fields on each side of the railway being literally covered with ladies, and gentlemen on horseback, and pedestrians of all kinds. The train of carriages were then attached to the locomotive engine, built by Mr. George Stephenson, in the following order:—1. Locomotive engine, with the engineer (Mr. George Stephenson) and assistants. 2. Tender, with coals and water; next, six waggons, loaded with coals and flour; then an elegant covered coach, with the committee, and other proprietors of the railway; then 21 waggons, fitted up for passengers; and, last of all, six waggons, loaded with coals, making, altogether, a train of 38 carriages, exclusive of the engine and tender. Tickets were distributed to the number of near 300, but, such was the pressure and crowd, that both loaded and empty carriages were instantly filled with passengers. The signal being given, the engine started off with this immense train of carriages, and, such was its velocity, that in some parts, the speed was frequently 12 miles an hour,* and, at that time, the number of passengers were counted to be 450, which, together with the coals, merchandise, and carriages, would amount to near 90 tons. After some little delay in arranging the procession, the engine, with its load, arrived at Darlington, a distance of 8½ miles, in 65 minutes. Six waggons loaded with coals, intended for Darlington, were then left behind, and, obtaining a fresh supply of water, and, arranging the procession to accommodate a band of music and passengers from Darlington, the engine set off again, and arrived at Stockton in 3 hours and 7 minutes, including stops, the distance being nearly 12 miles. On the arrival of the procession at Darlington, it was received with bursts of applause. By the time the cavalcade arrived at Stockton, where it was received with great joy, there were not less than 600 persons within, and hanging by the carriages, which excited a deep interest and admiration. Part of the workmen were entertained at Stockton, and part at Yarm, and there was a grand dinner for the proprietors and their most distinguished guests, to the number of 102, at the Town-hall in Stockton. Thomas Meynell, esq., of Yarm, was in the chair, and the mayor of the town acted as vice-president. The first rail of the Stockton and Darlington railway was laid by Thomas Meynell, esq., of the Friarage, Yarm, near St. John's Well, Stockton, where the dépôt for coal is now erected, on the 23rd of May, 1822, with public ceremonies and rejoicings.—*Local Papers.*

1825 (Oct. 2).—The farm-house upon the lands of Dukesfield, near

* Thus the honour of the first introduction of locomotive engines on public railways belongs to the county of Durham; and it was not until after several years evidence of the results that Liverpool and Manchester improved on the experiment by an increase of the speed to the rate of thirty miles in forty minutes.—*MS. Col.*

Bamborough was discovered to be on fire. Mr. Lilburn, the tenant, and the heads of his family, had gone to the meeting on the morning, and had left the house in the charge of the servant girl. She and the younger part of the family having walked into the fields, it was long before the fire was discovered, and, before assistance could be procured the house was nearly enveloped in flames. The whole of the furniture (some trifling things excepted), the linen, the wearing apparel, a stock of wool, and cash in notes to a considerable amount, were entirely destroyed. Fortunately the house had no connection with the outbuildings and stack yard.—*Local Papers*.

1825 (October 5).—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery by which four men were suffocated by the after-damp. The carbureted hydrogen gas took fire at a steel mill which was employed while the Davy lamps were cooling.—*Ibid*.

October 12.—A pair of spectacles in a steel case, were taken out of the maw of a salmon in the fish-market, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

October 18.—Died, at Hexham, Mrs. Jane Rutherford, in her 106th year.—*Ibid*.

November 6.—This morning (Sunday), at a little before five o'clock, an alarming fire broke out in premises occupied by Mr. Charlton, tallow-chandler, at the foot of Gallowgate, adjoining St. Andrew's church-yard, Newcastle. From the tallow-house it communicated to a stable on one side, and a dwelling-house on the other. The stable and tallow-house quickly fell a prey to the devouring element, together with two horses in the former. The dwelling-house was in such a state of conflagration, that the inmates were glad to escape almost in a state of nudity, with there lives. Every article of furniture and wearing apparel belonging to these people were entirely destroyed.—*Ibid*.

November 14.—Died, at Edinburgh, John Fuller, esq., M.D. Dr. Fuller was the author of "The History of Berwick-upod-Tweed, including a short account of the Villages of Tweedmouth and Spittal, &c." with engravings, 8vo., 1799. In 1824 the Dr. issued prospectuses for "A general View of the Border History of England and Scotland," but which was not published in his life time.—*Ibid*.

November 16.—A new chapel, in connection with the church of Scotland, called St. George's chapel, was opened for divine service in Villier's-street, Bishopwearmouth.—*Ibid*.

November 19.—Died, in Grindon-chare, Newcastle, Abigail Gray, aged 101 years. She retained all her faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

The Mechanical and Scientific institution of Morpeth was established.—*Ibid*.

1826 (Jan. 2).—The new fish-market, at the east end of the

guildhall, Newcastle, was first opened by a grand procession of the dealers, attended by a band of music. A dinner was given to them on the occasion, and All Saints' bells rung many a merry peal.—*Ibid.*

1825 (Jan. 3).—A murder was committed upon the body of Joseph Hedley, a highly respectable man, better known in the neighbourhood by the name of "*Joe the Quilter*," than by his own. He was a solitary widower, 80 years old, residing in a cottage in Homer's-lane, near Wardon, Northumberland, and living partly on alms and partly still by his own industry.

"His quilts with country fame was crowned,

"So neatly stitched, and all the ground

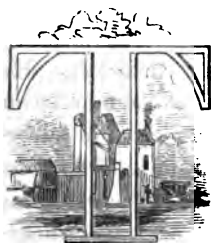
"Adorned with flowers or figured round."

that his assistance in this branch of art, as well as his entertaining and lively company, was much sought after by all the neighbourhood; and his cottage and adjoining garden were models of neatness. He was known, too, at times, to grace his board with some four silver table spoons, and two silver salts; and his tea-table with silver-spoons; and all this decency of appearance, and a constant flow of good and kind feeling, while they made him widely beloved, excited some envious calumniator to spread abroad a report that he was wealthy, and this became seduction to the cupidity and cruelty of another too powerful to resist. His cottage, body, and clothing, when his mangled remains were found, retaining convincing proofs that he had made a brave and powerful struggle to save life. The murderer remains undetected.—*Hodgson's Northd.*



JOE THE QUILTER'S COTTAGE (1825).

CHAPTER XIV.



THE first coals from the new colliery on the Springwell estate, belonging to the right honourable lord Ravensworth, and partners, were, on the 17th of January 1826, conveyed down the new railway (about five and a half miles in length) to the river Tyne, and put on board the ship *Industry*, at the improved new drop, erected on the Jarrow Grange estate of Cuthbert Ellison, esq. About half-past eight o'clock on the morning, the excellent band composed of his lordship and partners' colliers at Mount moor, in their new uniforms, with cockades at their caps, marched to the pit, playing several pleasing airs, and followed by a great concourse of spectators, amongst whom was an individual nearly 100 years old, (who had expressed a wish to see the first coals go from the pit, having, when a girl, on a like occasion, seen the first coals sent from the old colliery to the Wear,) for the accommodation of whom the agents sent a carriage to convey her thither, and gave her a cockade which she displayed at her bonnet. The procession left the pit at nine o'clock in four waggons, fitted up for the accommodation of the band, the agents of the colliery, and several ladies and gentlemen visitors, with a numerous concourse of persons on foot, and with eight chaldron waggons of coals, descended the inclined plane, and, preceded by the band, passed onwards towards the Tyne. On the coal waggons crossing the turnpike road from Sunderland to Newcastle, the company gave three cheers, the band playing "God save the king." On the procession arriving at Monkton, it was joined by some of the agents of the other collieries of his lordship and partners, and other gentlemen, and finally arrived at the top of the inclined plane, near the river, about half-past eleven o'clock, where numbers had assembled to join the procession, and view the operation

of shipping the coals, which are called Lord Ravensworth and Partners' Peareth's Wallsend. After placing the band in front of the cottages built on the spot, the coal waggons passed down the plane, one at a time, and landing upon the platform of the drop, were lowered on to the deck of the ship. The emptying of the first waggon was announced by a discharge of cannon, returned by a like discharge from the opposite shore. After the emptying of the coal waggons, the agents with a few select friends proceeded to Newcastle, and partook of an excellent dinner provided for the occasion by Mr. Richardson, of the Three Indian Kings Inn.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (Jan. 17.)—On the morning a terrible explosion of fire-damp, took place in Jarrow colliery, near South Shields, Durham, belonging to Thomas and Robert Brown, esqrs., of London, by which thirty-four men and boys were killed; and some others much burnt. Forty-five horses and two asses were also killed in the mine. The explosion took place in the Bensham pit, which had been recently sunk to the lowest seam. The cause could not be ascertained, as none who were in the place where the blast originated, were saved. It appeared on the coroner's inquest, on the body of Richard Bell, one of the sufferers, that the overmen and deputies had inspected all the workings on the morning of the day on which the accident occurred, and the wastemen had gone through the waste. There was no appearance of danger, but on the contrary, the pit seemed well ventilated, and in a perfectly safe state. The number down the pit at the time was forty-eight.—*Ibid.*

January 22.—Died, at the vicarage house, in Newcastle, the rev. John Smith, A. M., vicar of that town, in the 61st year of his age. He was a fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and a member of the senate. About the year 1790, he was appointed second master of Westminster school, under the rev. Dr. Vincent, he was afterwards presented with the living of Silkstone, near Barnsley, in Yorkshire, and in 1804, succeeded to the vicarage of Newcastle, upon the demise of the rev. J. D. Carlyle. During a constant residence for nearly twenty-two years upon his cure, he made many friends by his kind and hospitable disposition. He was an example of christian charity, for he not only "did not seek his own," but in many instances



returned what he received, and gave away privately to the extent of his means, while to the public charities of the place he was a liberal benefactor, and promoted many of them by the most vigilant personal attention and unceasing exertions. February the 1st. his remains were interred in a vault in St. Nicholas' church-yard near the library door, with every token of respect from great numbers of his sorrowing parishioners. The procession was previously arranged in the vestries of the respective churches, and set out from the vicarage about one o'clock. It was altogether on foot. The beadles with their staves led the way, followed by mutes; next came the boys and girls of St. Nicholas' charity schools. The caps of the former were trimmed with crape, and they had also a crape rosette on the left arm. The dresses of the girls were also similarly trimmed. They were followed by the several parochial officers, select vestrymen, &c. of the town. The clergy of the established church followed, and the procession was closed by a number of the private friends of the deceased, among whom were the mayor of Newcastle (George Forster, esq.), and several of the corporate body. The churchwardens, &c., wore scarfs and hatbands, the rest of the gentlemen hatbands only. From an early hour on the morning till the interment, the great bells of the several churches tolled, the flag on the castle was displayed half-staff high, and the shops in the line of the procession were all closed. The concourse of spectators was immense, and so eager were they to witness the interment that a great portion of the wooden paling on the south side of the church-yard was broken down by the pressure.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (Jan. 23).—Died, at Loosing hill, near Ravensworth, Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, aged 100 years, enjoying her memory to the last.—*Ibid.*

January 30.—Died, the venerable Reynold Gideon Bouyer, archdeacon of Northumberland, prebendary of Durham, rector of Howick, and vicar of North Allerton, with the chapelries of Brompton and Dighton, all in the diocese of Durham. He was of Jesus college, Cambridge, LL.B. 1769, was appointed prebendary of Durham in 1791, was presented to Allerton by the dean and chapter in 1814, and to Howick by the bishop. He published "A Sermon preached before the delivery of the colours to the Durham Volunteer Infantry, 1803," 4to. "Comparative View of the two new Systems of Education for the infant poor, in a Charge delivered to the Clergy of Durham, 1811." 8vo. Archdeacon Bouyer stands pre-eminent amongst the clergy of the diocese; having established, at his own expence, *parochial libraries*, in every parish in Northumberland, comprising upwards of 30,000 volumes, which cost him about £1400, although he was

supplied with them by the Society for the Promotion of Christian knowledge at 40 per cent. under prime cost. These useful libraries are placed under the care of the parochial ministers, and the books are lent gratuitously to the parishioners.—*Gent's. Mag., &c.*

1826 (Jan.)—Died, at Dalton, near Hexham, Mrs. Hannah Middleton, in the 102nd year of her age.—*Local Papers.*

In the beginning of this year, the numbering of the houses and shops in the various streets, &c. of Newcastle, was commenced.—*Ibid.*



February 1.—Died after a few hours' illness, at his seat, Gosforth-house, in Northumberland, Charles John Brandling, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, and lieutenant-colonel of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry. He was interred, on the 10th of February, at Gosforth church, with great solemnity. At an early period of the day, the carriages of the neighbouring gentry began to arrive at Gosforth house; and many persons on horseback and on foot went from

Newcastle and the neighbourhood. At two o'clock, the body was placed in the hearse; four morning coaches then drew up at the hall door, and received the mourners; and about half-past two the solemn procession, occupying nearly half a mile in extent, moved for the final depository. There were, including the hearse, upwards of thirty vehicles, nearly one half of them drawn by four horses each. After these came, in deep mourning, a troop of the Newcastle cavalry. A number of his tenantry closed the line. On arrival at the churchyard, where a stone vault of considerable dimensions had been constructed, the body was met by the rev. John Walker, who performed the service in a very impressive manner. The pall was supported by sir M. W. Ridley, M. P., sir Charles Loraine, sir C. M. L. Monck, barts., R. J. Lambton, C. W. Bigge, and C. J. Clavering, esqrs. As chief-mourners appeared the rev. R. H. Brandling, John Brandling, R. W. Brandling, Thomas Creevey, M. P., R. Burdon, Matthew Bell, William Linskill, Walter — Fawkes, G. Wentworth, and Charles Ogle, esqrs. After these followed a number of gentlemen with scarfs and hatbands. The church was crowded to excess, indeed the whole way from Gosforth house to the church was lined with sorrowing spectators.—*Ibid.*

February 8,—Died, in Silver-street, Newcastle. Mr. James Allan, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

February 16.—The free masons' lodge, No. 26, in the Groat-market, Newcastle, was consecrated and dedicated with great solemn-

nity. They had removed from their lodge, in the Bigg-market, to these rooms, which had previously been occupied by the literary and philosophical society, that body having removed to their new building in Westgate-street.—*Local Papers.*



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY (1836).

1826 (Feb. 17).—The foundation of a light-house, at the east end of the pier at the mouth of Berwick harbour, was laid by admiral Stow.—*Ibid.*

February 21.—The death of Mr. Brandling having occasioned a vacancy in the representation of Northumberland, the hon H. T. Liddell, of Eslington, and Matthew Bell, esq., of Woolington, began a very spirited canvas. The polling which commenced at Alnwick on the above day, was carried on with great determination, until the 7th of March, when Mr. Liddell declined any further contest, and Mr. Bell, was chaired. At the close of the poll the numbers for each candidate were:—Mr. Bell 1,186, Mr. Liddell 1,150. Mr. Liddell made his entry into Newcastle on the 8th of March, Mr. Bell the day following. The crowds which assembled on both occasions were so awfully dense, that many were nearly suffocated. One young woman had her thigh bone broken, another her ribs broken and otherwise dreadfully bruised. The mixture of carriages, horses, and people, was terrific in the extreme. An active canvas immediately after commenced on the parts of Mr. Bell, Mr. Liddell, Lord Howick, and Mr. Beaumont, for the general election.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—A fire broke out at the Lonning-burn, a farm in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland, in the occupation of Mr. William

Armorer, of the Dunns, which entirely consumed the farm-stead and two cottages. Great exertions were used by the neighbours to stop the conflagration without effect. The stack-yard and other premises were saved by the wind being favourable.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (March 21).—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, in Newcastle, Jane Young, aged 104 years. She was the daughter of Alexander and Margaret Young, and baptized at the parish church of Yetholm, on the 2nd of March, 1722.—*Ibid.*

March 25.—Died, at his house in Cavendish-square, London, after an illness of six weeks, the right reverend Shute Barrington, lord bishop of Durham, in his 93rd year. After an education at Eton and Oxford, where he was for some years fellow of Merton college, he entered into holy orders, was appointed chaplain to king George II., and afterwards to King George III. In 1761, he was made canon of Christ-church, Oxford, and a few years afterwards residentiary of St. Paul's. In 1769, he was consecrated bishop of Llandaff, and continued in that see till 1783, when he was translated to Salisbury. In 1791, he succeeded Dr. Thomas Thurlow, in the opulent see of Durham. In his episcopal character, bishop Barrington was a strict observer of discipline amongst his clergy, and made it his constant business to seek out such worthy and able men as were best entitled to preferment. His private beneficence was princely; and it is said that £100,000 would not exceed the amount of his benefactions. In 1809, he was involved in a law-suit respecting the rents of some lead-mines belonging to the see, the leases of which had expired for several years, without being renewed. On a discovery of the fact, a bill was filed in chancery to recover the arrears; and the cause on being sent down to the court of king's bench, was decided in favour of the bishop, who recovered thereby nearly £60,000; but, instead of taking any part of this sum to his own use, he appropriated the whole to the establishment of schools in his diocese, and the formation of a fund for poor clergymen and their widows. He had made a similar application of the proceeds which accrued to him on the division of Framwellgate and Brasside moors and Witton-Gilbert common. When bishop Barrington had held the episcopal office fifty years (including the time he was bishop of Llandaff and Salisbury), the clergy of the diocese of Durham erected, at the cost of £2300, a large charity-school at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and distinguished it by the name of "The Clergy Jubilee School," in commemoration of the event. During his last year, he spent several months at Worthing, in Sussex, where he resided in the mansion which had been for a short time occupied by the princess Charlotte of Wales. After about five weeks' illness at his town's house in Cavendish-

square, London, he read the appointed Sunday lessons to his assembled household, and feelingly told them it was for the last time. A few mornings after, on March 25, 1826, he expired tranquilly, and almost imperceptibly to his attendants, at the great age of 92. He was buried, according to his own injunctions, in the most private manner; his remains being deposited near those of his second wife, in the vault of Mongewell church.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1826 (March 25).—A tyrst fair for the sale of cattle, horses, sheep and swine, was held in Hexham, by order of the lord and lady of the manor (Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont), on the above day for the first time, and to be continued on the same day in every succeeding year.—*Ibid.*

March 30.—Between the hours of eight and ten p.m. a sublime and unusual electrical phenomenon was observed in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, consisting of a broad zone of white light, forming an exact arch across the sky. It appeared arising from the west as a streaming light, which passed between the two stars in Arion's shoulder, and, sweeping through the zenith, it proceeded through the tail of Ursa Major, and a little to the north of Corona Borealis, apparently perpendicular to the magnetic meridian. It rather decreased in magnitude near the zenith. Its greatest breadth appeared to be 4 or 5 degrees. The light was steady and regular, resembling the tail of a comet; but when seen through a telescope was scarcely visible.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

April 3.—Two men whose united ages amounted to 202 years were interred at Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, viz:—John Drew, of that place, aged 91 years, and Thomas Fletcher, of Philadelphia, in the same parish, aged 111 year. The latter retained his senses entire till within a few hours of his death. His grandfather died at the age of 120 years, and his sister at 102 years. His uncle was 105 years when he died, and he could read the smallest print the day before his death. He was in the train band of Mr. Shafto, of East Shafto, in the year 1745.—*Local Papers.*

April 14.—Died, at Sunderland, Jane Dryden, widow, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

April 23.—Dr. William van Mildert, was installed bishop of Durham, at London. July 21st, he arrived at the city of Durham, and was installed in the cathedral there.—*Ibid.*

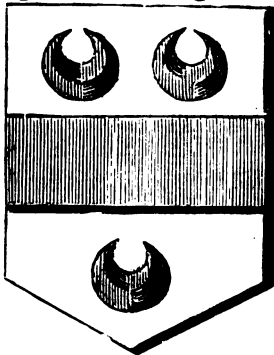
April.—This month, Mr. Thompson, farmer at Mindrum, Northumberland, discovered a brass urn, containing 600 Roman coins, most of which were in a state of excellent preservation. The coins were all of silver; in size they resembled a sixpence, but were nearly three times as thick, and presented such varieties in regard to date, die, and decorations, that they were probably regarded as an extraordinary

collection several hundred years ago. Numbers of them were dated before the coming of our Saviour; and the heads of Julius Cæsar, Vespasian, &c., were as clear and sharply outlined as the head of the sovereign on the coinage of the present day.—*Dumfries Courier*.

1826 (May 4).—Being ascension-day, the mayor of Newcastle, according to ancient custom, surveyed the boundaries of the river Tyne. In the evening, on the return of the barges, &c., from Newburn, and a little above the Crooked Billet, a small boat wherein were twelve persons, was unfortunately run foul of and upset by a steam-vessel, and a young man and a young woman, named John Lambton and Mary Gregg, lost their lives. Coroner's verdict, accidental death. Deodand on the steam-boat, £5.—*Local Papers*.

May 28.—Died, at Sedgfield, in the county of Durham, aged 71, Mr. John Reed. He was a man of most eccentric habits; and after his death were found deposited in his house, in old pockets, skins, bladders, tea-pots, and earthen jars, considerable sums of gold, silver, &c. Having died intestate, numerous relations claimed the treasure.—*Gent's Mag*.

May 30.—An explosion took place in Townley Main, (Stella) colliery on the river Tyne, by which lamentable occurrence thirty-eight human beings lost their lives.—*Local Papers*.



June 5.—Died, at his house in Saville-place, Newcastle, aged 70. Charles Ogle, esq. For thirty-four years he exercised the functions of collector of customs, to the approbation of the mercantile members, and to the advantage of the trade, of Newcastle. He was assiduous, impartial, obliging, and just, in his weighty office. In social life, his amiable manners, honourable conduct, and hospitality, were extensively acknowledged, and will be long lamented.

At the conclusion of his active services by resignation about a year previously, the members of parliament for the town, the gentry from different parts of the county, the merchants, and respectable inhabitants, invited him to a sumptuous entertainment, and the chamber of commerce presented him with a costly vase of silver, delivered after an appropriate speech by their president.—*Gent's Mag*.

June 9.—Died, in Morpeth, John Rastrick, an ingenious engineer, who claimed to be the inventor of the thrashing machine. Rastrick was born at Bowles's green, Morpeth, in 1738.—*Hodgson's Northd*.

June 12.—A fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. Moor, as a sail-cloth manufactory, in Queen-street, Sunderland, which at

first had a very alarming appearance, but, by the timely arrival of the engines, and the assistance of those present, it was got under without communicating to any of the adjoining premises.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (June 13).—About ten o'clock in the forenoon, a fire broke out in a tenanted house in Hornsby's-chare, Newcastle. It bore at one time a very alarming aspect, owing to a quantity of tar, in a merchant's cellar underneath, having caught fire, but, by the prompt arrival of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of the neighbours and individuals who had arrived on the spot, the fire was confined to the premises where it broke out, which were totally destroyed, with almost all the furniture of the inmates, who barely escaped with their lives.—*Ibid.*



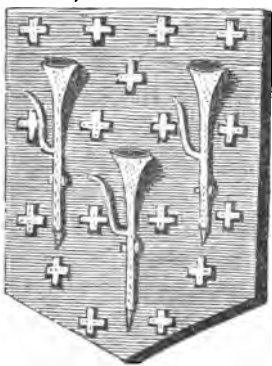
HEAD OF HORNSBY'S CHARE (1843).

June 13.—In consequence of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P. (who had succeeded Mr. Brandling,) lord Howick, and the hon. H. T. Liddell, having started as candidates for Northumberland, at the general election, a county meeting was ordered by the sheriff to be held at Morpeth on the above day, to consider who were proper persons to represent the county in parliament. The shew of hands was declared by the undersheriff to be in favour of the hon. H. T. Liddell and T. W. Beaumont, esq. June the 20th the polling commenced at Alnwick, and was carried on with great spirit until July the 6th, when the hon. H. T. Liddell and Matthew Bell, esq., were duly elected. The numbers

were,—Mr. Liddell 1,562, Mr. Bell 1,380, Mr. Beaumont 1,335, and lord Howick 976. His lordship declined the contest on the 3rd of July. On the 7th, the two newly elected members made their public entry into Newcastle, on which occasion immense crowds were assembled in the streets through which they were to pass, and the windows of the several houses in the line, were thronged with parties of elegantly dressed ladies, waving the colours of their favourite candidate. In Mr. Liddell's train there were about two hundred horsemen, and fourteen carriages. In that of Mr. Bell there were four bands of music, two hundred and fifty horsemen and upwards of thirty carriages of various descriptions. The number of splendid flags exhibited by the two parties were considerably above one hundred; the whole forming one of the most imposing electioneering processions ever witnessed.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (July 1).—In consequence of some expressions made on the hustings at Alnwick on the preceding day during the general election for Northumberland, a duel was fought on Bamborough sands between John George Lambton, esq., M. P. for Durham, attended by the hon. general Grey, and Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, esq., attended by Mr. Plunkett, when, after an exchange of shots, the affair was terminated to the satisfaction of the seconds.—*Ibid.*

July 6.—Died, Mrs. Jane Watts, wife of captain Watts, R. N., and youngest daughter of the late George Waldie, esq., of Hendersyde Park, Roxburghshire, and Forth House, Newcastle. This lady was distinguished by uncommon literary talents, and by her fine original paintings from nature, which commanded universal admiration in the exhibitions of the royal academy at Somerset-house, and were ranked with the works of the first artists of the day. Mrs. Watts was the author of "Letters on Holland," "Rome in the 19th century," and a very interesting novel entitled "Continental Adventures," 3 vols., &c. &c.—*Ibid.*



July 26.—Died, at his residence at West Jesmond, near Newcastle, aged 68 years, sir Thomas Burdon, knight, lieut.-col. commandant of the Tyne hussars, and of the 2nd Durham local militia, one of his majesty's justices of the peace for Northumberland, and formerly an alderman, and twice mayor of Newcastle. His lady, who had been dead some years previous, was a sister of the right hon. the earl of Eldon and the right hon. lord Stowell. Sir Thomas was distinguished for his loyalty, hospitality, and charity; and was

universally esteemed for the urbanity and kindness of his manners and heart. He had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him at Carlton-house by the prince regent on the 14th of May 1816.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (July 28).—Died, George Pickering, a minor poet of some local interest. He was the eldest son of a gentleman of the same name, who was successively land steward to sir Lancelot Allgood of Nunwick, and sir William Middleton of Belsay castle, in Northumberland. He was born at Simonburn in that county, about January, 1758; the register of his baptism being dated the 11th of that month, he received the rudiments of education at his native place, under Mr. Joseph Atkinson, a reputable and successful teacher. In 1770 or the following year, he was placed under the tutelage of the rev. Joseph Harrison, master of the grammar school of Haydon bridge, for education in the languages. In December 1776, Mr. Pickering became a clerk in Mr. Davidson's office at Newcastle; where after some little time, he was intrusted with the principal management of the stamp-office for that district. Here he was associated successively with Thomas Bedingfield and James Ellis, which last named gentleman published in 1815, a volume of poetry, the joint production of these three lawyer's clerks, and inscribed to the first literary character of the age. Pickering's name is intimately connected with a poetic fragment, bearing the impress of genius, but of questionable authority. "Keen blows the wind o'er Donocht-head," which Walter Scott thought worth committing to memory, first appeared in the *Edinburgh Herald*, and came to the editor of that paper bearing the Newcastle post-mark. Its being attributed to Burns, and his disclaiming the honour, with a compliment on the verses, are known to most readers. Several of Pickering's poems display much sentimentality: indeed they are more remarkable for tenderness of feeling than for originality of conception, both his subjects and the manner of treating them remind us of other poems by other poets—his *Winter*—his *Father's Epitaph*—and his *Inn* (probably the inn at Blueback near Allen-water), bring to our recollection Burns—Goldsmith—and Shenstone, even the celebrated 'Donocht-head' can scarcely be perused without thinking of Parnel's Beggarmen, and some verses containing a similar story beginning—"Around the Fire one Wintry Night." The piece entitled "The Moaning Clock and Hollow Wind," contains some natural and tender thoughts; particularly the stanza—"Placed by the midnight fire alone, I hear the passing hour depart."—But Pickering could trifle with the idlest at times; and the famous hoax played upon the *Newcastle Courant*, in the publication of a Lapland song, was the joint work of him and his colleague Bedingfield. The occasion was the following.

Sir Henry George Liddell and some other gentlemen, having made a voyage to Lapland, in the summer of 1786, and brought with them two female natives of that country; these wits invented a combination of syllables which had the appearance of poetry, and which was announced as a song sung by these natives of Lapland; this together with a pretended translation, appeared in the above paper, Sept. 2nd 1786; and the criticism, with a new translation, on the 21st of October following. Nay, so successful was the trick, that the song was set to music; and the first translation published in a quarto edition of the voyage, and was even copied into some of the London magazines, a happier literary hoax was perhaps never perpetrated. It is to George Pickering that we owe the truly original—"Ouk fruezen tharanno el torne van zien"—to Thomas Bedingfield, the very ingenious criticism; and to each of them a copy of verses called Translations—"as literal as the idioms of the two languages will admit!" After leaving the north, he spent some time at the house of an intimate friend, Mr. William Cooke, then settled in Norfolk, but a native of Hexham. His manners were volatile in the extreme; his ability for singing as well as writing, gained him admission into gay company, and he was often entertained at good tables; but his unrestricted indulgence at the bottle became disgusting even to those who were not themselves very temperate. The latter part of Pickering's life seems to have been involved in much obscurity: some portion of it was probably spent abroad. On his return to the north of England, his declining years and impoverished circumstances withdrew him from public notice. He was buried at Lamesley in the county of Durham.—*Compiled chiefly from Ellis' Memoir by Jos. Ridley.*

1826 (Aug. 5).—An iron, or suspension bridge, over the river Coquet, at Hepple, in Northumberland, was opened. It was projected by Mr. John Wilson, of Rimside. Its greatest span 90 feet, and was calculated to support a weight of six tons without suffering permanent alteration. The expense of erection did not exceed £30!!—*Local Papers.*

August 7.—A hackney coach was commenced running at Gateshead, in the county of Durham.—*Ibid.*

August 14.—A newly-erected extensive paper-mill at Scotswood, near Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire. Two engines from Lemington were immediately procured, and a person sent express to the Newcastle Fire office for the engines belonging to that establishment, but such was the nature of the materials of the mill, that the premises were soon a heap of burning ruins. The flames had a most terrific appearance, and ignited a part of an adjoining coal staith, as also a hedge, and some trees in the vicinity. Towards the evening,

and after the engines had left, the large stock of paper and other materials, covered by the falling of the walls, &c., again burst into flames, and, owing to a strong southerly wind, burnt with great fury, when several cottages occupied by the workmen, and a coal tar manufactory adjoining, were set fire to, and, had it not been for the exertions of the workmen in extinguishing the burning sheets of paper that were flying in all directions, they must have become a prey to the devouring element. An engine had again to be procured from Newcastle, and the fire was at length extinguished, after a destruction of property to the amount of £8,000.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (Aug. 27).—Being Sunday, a joiner was placed in the stocks in St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle, nearly two hours, for having disturbed the congregation in the church, by exclaiming "Bell for Ever," whilst the service was proceeding. He was in a state of intoxication at the time.—*Ibid.*

St. James' chapel, Blackett-street, Newcastle, a plain but exceedingly well-built stone edifice, with a fine massive portico, of the Grecian Doric order, was erected, from a design by John Dobson, esq., architect, at a cost of £2, 218, including the site. It was first opened for divine worship on August 31st, this year. The interior of the building is very tastefully fitted up, and will seat about 600 persons. It is occupied by a congregation of Independents, formerly meeting in Silver-street chapel. The north wall of St. James' chapel stands on the line of the ancient circummuration of the town, and one of its towers (Ficket tower), stood on the ground now occupied by its portico. The register of births and baptisms belonging to this chapel commences in 1746.—*MS. Col. Rep. of Parl. Com., &c.*



FICKET TOWER, NEWCASTLE (1825).

1826 (Sep. 5).—About six o'clock on the morning, an explosion took place in Heworth colliery, when three men and two boys were unfortunately killed, and ten others scorched and bruised. This explosion dashed to pieces the stoppings, brattices, and props, and brought down the roof in several places. Some of the men who were working in a distant part of the mine, were unhurt and even unconscious, until they came to bank, of the accident having happened.—*Local Papers*.

September 5.—The proprietor of *Alione* or Whitley castle, on the western borders of Northumberland, discovered, west of the bath, a large dung-hill, resembling a peat bog, and which he used in manuring his ground. It abounds with old shoes, all made right and left—those of men, clinker-built—those of ladies, without nails, but having ears for lace-holes, and under each hole a fringe of leather thongs, cut from scallop-shaped vandykes between each ear. Also, abundance of fragments of earthenware, green glass, armillæ of jet or fine cannel coal. The floors of the adjoining bath, made on pillars, first with a coating of mineral spar and lime, and then with layers of lime, brick, broken pottery, &c.—the spar such as is usually found where lead ore has been separated from the minerals with which it was found intermixed in the veins.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

September 23.—The lord bishop of Durham consecrated a new chapel of ease and a burial-ground attached, at Shincliffe, in the county of Durham.—*Local Papers*.

September 28.—A public accommodation was given to the inhabitants of Newcastle, by the addition of minute hands to the dials of the clock in the tower of St. Nicholas' church. The additional work was executed by Mr. William Tweedy, clock and watch maker, an ingenious mechanic, for Mr. John Smith, the keeper. The dials were also new gilt.—*Ibid.*

October 1.—The town of South Shields was first lighted with gas.—*Ibid.*

October 27.—An explosion took place in the high pit of Benwell colliery, near Newcastle, by which two young men, named Joseph Whitfield, and William Peel, were killed almost instantaneously. Several men were much injured. There were upwards of 100 men and boys in the mine at the time. The cause assigned for this explosion was, that Peel went with a candle into a part of the mine which he and the rest had been cautioned to avoid.—*Ibid.*

November 16.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Nicholas Haswell, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

November 20.—The foundation-stone of the suspension bridge across the river Wansbeck, near Morpeth, was laid. A roll of parchment, containing the origin and issue of the matter, in a latin

inscription, a newspaper, coins, memoranda, &c., in a bottle, hermetically sealed, were deposited in a cavity of the stone. Robt. Clark, esq., of Highlaws, after securing the cavity, mounted the stone, and, in a brief and appropriate address, pointed out the advantages of the undertaking, and wished prosperity and long duration to the structure. The stone was lowered amid loud cheers, firing of guns, and a merry peal from the neighbouring clock tower, and success to the bridge was most heartily drunk by the assembled populace. This bridge was built by subscription, to which the members of parliament for the borough were liberal contributors. It was finished in 1827.—*Local Papers.*

1826 (December 2).—Died, in High Friar-street, Newcastle, Jane Robson, a poor woman, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

December 9.—Died, at his father's house, in Barnard castle, after a few months' illness, Mr. William Vasey, aged 24 years. This young man who had been a clerk to an attorney in Newcastle, evinced considerable talents as a poet, a critic, and a moralist, and although he did not leave much behind him, yet what he did leave reflects honour on his memory; his last piece is an "Address to the Breeze," written during his return from France, whether he had been in search of health; but this was denied, and soon after his return, he fell a victim to a rapid consumption which consigned him to an early tomb.—*Local Rec.*

December 22.—Died at Hexham, aged 70, the rev. Matthew Sharp, Roman Catholic minister of that place. Mr. S. was a native of Yorkshire, and previous to his settlement in Hexham, had spent many years on the continent of Europe, where he added to a respectable knowledge of the classics, a familiar acquaintance with modern languages, particularly French, which he spoke with the facility of a native. But these acquisitions were only the ornaments of a mind eminently gifted with the most excellent qualities. His amiable manners, added to his venerable appearance, procured for him the respect of all parties; whilst his charitable disposition towards those of another creed, shewed that it was no part of his religion to declaim against that of others. He was regarded in the little sphere in which he moved with filial affection, and his removal was marked by an uniform feeling of regret.—*J. R. in Tyne Mercury.*

This year, a wooden bridge across the river Tyne, near Haltwhistle, 272 feet in length, was completed; Mr. John Dobson, architect. It cost £700. raised by subscription of the vicar of Haltwhistle, and the neighbouring proprietors.—*Local Papers.*

A cairn, consisting of a vast heap of loose round stones, was opened in this year, in a field called the Callegers, half a mile



west of the village of Netherwitton, Northumberland, and on the south side of the river Font; but had nothing remarkable in it, excepting a few bones, and the very great size of the water-worn



slab of limestone which covered the kistvaen in its centre. There is another cairn in the same field, which has been partly despoiled of its stones, but apparently not rifled to its centre.—(*Hodgson's*

Northd.) The accompanying views of the barrow, which was about thirty feet in diameter, are from sketches by W. C. Trevelyan, esq., communicated to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, by whom they were engraved, and through whose permission they here appear.

1827 (Jan. 4).—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Durham, Parkinson Wouldhave, aged 108 years.—*Local Papers*.

January 8.—On the arrival in Newcastle, of the melancholy intelligence of the death of his royal highness the duke of York on the 5th, the bells of the different churches commenced tolling at eight o'clock on the morning, the flag on the castle was raised half-staff high, and the flags of the various vessels at the Quay were similarly hoisted. The churches were in a few days hung with black, and every token of mourning exhibited. January 20th, the day of the interment of his royal highness at Windsor, Newcastle exhibited an appearance of great solemnity. By a signal gun from the castle, at eight o'clock on the morning the bells commenced their solemn tolling, and the vessels in the river hoisted their flags half mast high. The market, according to a request from the mayor, having been held on the Friday, the shops were all kept shut. The society of Friends also showed their loyalty and attachment to the present reigning family, in general having their shops and offices closed. At the custom-house, literary and philosophical society, &c., all business was suspended. There were prayers at all the churches, and the mayor, sheriff, aldermen, and other members of the corporate body, all in full mourning, preceded by their usual officers bearing the regalia, which were bound with black crape, went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where service was most impressively performed by the rev. the vicar. The members of the Orange and Odd fellows' lodges went in procession to this church, displaying the ribbons of their orders. During the day several solemn peals were rung. At four o'clock, minute guns were commenced firing from the castle, which were continued until five o'clock, when the solemnities of the day ceased. The markets at Alnwick and Sunderland were also changed, on this occasion, from Saturday to Friday, and other signs of sorrow generally manifested.—*Ibid.*

About half-past five o'clock in the evening of the same day, the ship *Ossian*, of North Shields, lying in the Tyne, off Milburn place, was discovered to be on fire in her cabin. On the alarm being given several persons immediately went on board, some endeavouring to quell the fire, while others succeeded in getting the ship out of the tier, she being in the middle of about thirteen vessels. The progress of the fire was most alarming until the arrival of two engines, which confined it to the after part of the vessel, and about nine o'clock

succeeded in totally extinguishing it. How the fire originated could not be ascertained there being no one on board the vessel at the time it broke out.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (Jan. 16).—A new chapel, denominated the Union chapel, was opened at Blyth, for divine service, by the rev. Mr. Gilmore, of North Shields, and the rev. Mr. Duncan, of Sunderland, each of whom delivered appropriate and eloquent discourses. The chapel was furnished with every necessary appendage, through the persevering activity of a few ladies, in a manner honourable to themselves and expressive of their gratitude.—*Ibid*.

January 16.—Died, at Berwick Hill, in the county of Northumberland, aged 104, Mrs. Barbara Olive.—*Gent's Mag*.

January 17.—About one o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in Tanfield moor staith, at Dunston, near Newcastle. By the speedy arrival of the engines from the latter place, it was got under after a destruction to the amount of about £500.—*Local Papers*.

January 27.—In the building yard belonging to Mr. Mires, at South Shields, an attempt was made to launch the St. Hilda, a very fine ship of about 350 tons, belonging to Hall and Mires, she went a few feet, but in consequence of the ways shrinking, there stuck fast. They started her again on the 29th, when she went into the Tyne in fine style, amidst a great concourse of spectators.—*Ibid*.

January.—For several days the wind blew a complete hurricane. A new house in Brandling-place, near Newcastle, was entirely levelled with the ground, and the gable end of another thrown down. A new house in Gateshead also lost its gable. Numerous chimneys were thrown down, and the gardens and enclosures shewed its ravages. Several keels were sunk in the river Tyne; one with a valuable cargo of crown glass. At Sunderland, in some streets, the people rose from their beds in alarm, they were so shaken by the wind, and the tiles were flying about in all directions. At Shields, also, several ships broke adrift, and a Sunderland sloop got upon an anchor and sunk.—*Ibid*.

February 1.—Died, at South Shields, aged 34, Mr. Thomas Green, son of the late Robert Green, esq., of that place. This gentleman displayed his brave and humane character in rescuing, at the imminent peril of his own life, and when every hope had lapsed, the crews of two vessels wrecked near Tynemouth, on the 2d of December 1825.—*Gent's Mag*.

February 17.—The Betsy Cains of Shields, having sailed from that port with a cargo for Hambro' met with a heavy gale from E.S.E. and was obliged to bear up for Shields harbour, but when on Tynemouth bar, she struck, and was afterwards driven upon the rocks,

near the Spanish battery. This remarkable vessel would seem to have been built about the commencement of the seventeenth century, for before its conclusion, tradition reports that even then she was, "an old ship, but a lucky and fast sailer." The first positive data which we have connected with her are that she was Thames built, and was purchased either by the prince of Orange, or some of his adherents, to form part of the fleet destined to effect the glorious revolution of 1688. It is also said that the prince himself came over in this yacht; and that he gave it the name of the Princess Mary in honour of his illustrious consort, the daughter of James II.* With the success of her noble freight, her fame rose accordingly. During William's reign, she was employed as one of the royal yachts, but having undergone numerous and extensive repairs, her original build was greatly interfered with. She was at length the pleasure yacht of queen Anne, and was so known among nautical men. This we may safely term the meridian of her glory. On the death of her royal mistress, she was doomed to experience the vicissitudes inherent of all sublunary objects. By order of George I. she ceased to form part of the royal establishment; still she weathered it bravely under the protection of one of the lords of the court. On his disgrace, change after change assailed her. About the middle of the last century she was sold by government to the Messrs Walters, of London, and was rechristened the *Betsy Cairns*, in honour of some lady connected with the West Indies;—in which trade she was long engaged. At length after manifold degradations, she was purchased by the Messrs Carlens, of London, and used by them as a *collier*, and was employed in the conveyance of coals between Newcastle and the metropolis. In this deplorable condition, she still maintained her character as a "lucky ship, and fast sailer." While in this employ, she was purchased about 1825 by George Finch Wilson, of South Shields, and under the command of Henry Wilson, was employed in the merchant service. After many weary years and heavy seas had rolled over her, and when she was still pursuing her latter avocation, her death blow was struck and an overwhelming sea threw her on the "Black Middens" a tremendous reef, just north of the mouth of the Tyne. The weather

* In the State Tracts "(vol. i. p. 56. fol. 1705,) it is said, that the Prince of Orange 'embarked in a frigate of twenty-eight or thirty guns;' but this, from the date of the account, Oct. 29, evidently alludes to his *first* embarkation, and before the storm arose which forced back the fleet. On the second, and successful attempt, "The Prince" says Rapin, (History of England, v. ii. p. 776.) "on the 1st of November, in the afternoon, embarked in a new vessel called the *Brill*." This evidence makes questionable the seamen's tradition of the *Betsy Cairns* being the vessel that brought over the prince, from Holland, in the revolution fleet.



was remarkably unfavourable. A severe frost prevailed and a heavy fall of snow driven by a tempestuous wind raised the ocean to a terrible pitch of fury. In this fearful state of things, the old ship and its weather beaten crew were driven about by the enraged ocean with irresistible fury and no one expected the deliverance of one or the other; but the Northumberland life-boat, manned by a crew of hardy fellows, boldly put off and drove their vessel through the breakers with such success, that every human being in the ill-fated vessel, was delivered from a watery grave. The weather continued tempestuous but yet hopes were entertained that if there was a subsidence of the heavy sea, she might be got off, as much damage had not yet been done to the sturdy vessel. Before the 1st of March however she went to pieces. In this forlorn and melancholy condition, she presented an apt emblem of fallen greatness, and excited great public attention; indeed, at all times she was regarded with surprising interest, and wherever she lay the sailors crowded to see her;—the more so, probably from a memorable prophecy said to be connected with the fate of this venerable ship, viz:—that “the Catholics would never get the better while the Betsy Cains was afloat,” and now that her hour *was* come, can our hardy mariners (as remarkable for their superstition as for their bravery,) be wondered at, when they regarded the loss of the Betsy Cains as a serious injury to the Protestant cause. From the repeated repairs which this vessel had undergone, little of the original remained, yet the old sailor, and the practical shipwright could easily identify the peculiarities of her build. She was in length, eighty feet and three inches; in breadth (below the main wales) twenty-three feet. She had two decks, the height between which was six feet and a half. She was carsel built, was without galleries, square sterned and devoid of figure

head. She had two masts, a trysail mast, and was square rigged, with a standing bowsprit. The remnant of the original ship, however small, was very fine. It was oak, richly and profusely carved, approaching in colour, from age and exposure, to ebony. There was literally a scramble among the populace to obtain fragments. Those who could not obtain them by manual labour, were made to pay most exorbitant prices by those who made it their business to supply themselves with a large quantity of the crude material. Persons in Shields received letters from all parts of the country for fragments, and perhaps nearly all the Orange lodges in the kingdom made similar applications. Snuff boxes and other articles of memorial were made in immense numbers. Each of the members of the corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne was presented with one of these boxes; they are also very prevalent in the coal trade, being kept in memory both of the varied fortunes of the ship, and of the durability and inimitable qualities of the British Oak.*—*Newcastle Cour.*,—*Mech. Mag.*,—*Brayley's Graph. Illus.*,—*Whychcotte of St. John's*,—*Custom House Books*, &c.

1827 (Feb. 22).—A young man named John Margetts, apprentice to a surgeon of North Shields, having been sent by his master, Mr. Greenhow, with some medicine to a sick person about five o'clock on the morning, most mysteriously disappeared, and has not since been heard of. He was about nineteen years of age.—*Local Papers*.

February 26.—About four o'clock in the afternoon, Alexander Brodie, the eldest wherryman on the river Tyne, plied a small boat on the quay, Newcastle, to the amusement of numerous spectators, the Tyne having risen several feet higher than ordinary, owing to the rapid thaw of the snow, &c. Many of the cellars on the Quayside were inundated, the water extending considerably up the Broad-chare. *Ibid.*

In the beginning of this year, the names of the streets, &c., in Gateshead were first put up.—*Ibid.*

March 1.—The wind corn-mill belonging to Mr. Butterfint, in Hendon-lane, near Sunderland, was destroyed by fire, which broke out between six and seven o'clock, and the wind being very high, baffled

* Of this Ship a painting was made by Mr. James Ferguson of North Shields, which was in the possession of the late Henry Hewetson, esq. of Seaton-burn. A lithograph was executed from this picture by Mr. Wm. Davison, of Sunderland. She was registered at Newcastle, March 16, 1825, number 167, at that time the property of Wilson. The same document from which this information is gained informs us that she was condemned as a prize to the high court of Admiralty, 16th of June, 1807, as appeared by a certificate of registry granted at London, on the 11th of Nov. 1818, number 362. Her tonnage was 183¹/₂.

every attempt to extinguish it, although the parish engines were speedily on the spot, and well supplied with water. The mill was insured for £600. supposed to be only half its value.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (March 12).—Early on the morning, a rock of some tons weight, separated from its long abode, and came down with a tremendous thundering noise from a height of twenty yards, against a house in Bridge-gate, Barnardcastle, occupied by persons named Green and Dickinson. Instantly the side of the house gave way, and two children who were sleeping in a lower room were for some time buried in its ruins, but were taken out unhurt. When Dickinson awoke, who occupied an upper room, his bed was kept up by a holdfast to the other wall, the floor having given way, and the other side of the house having disappeared, he hung in his bed like a tenant of the air, but through assistance, all the inmates were rescued from their perilous situation.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—This month there was a contested election for the representation of the borough of Berwick upon Tweed. The candidates were sir Francis Blake, bart., and sir David Milne. The poll commenced on the above day, when sir Francis and sir David were both proposed. At the close of that day, the numbers were—for Sir F. Blake 238; Sir D. Milne 83. On the following day (Wednesday) another candidate, John Bayley, esq. of Upper Harley street, London, appeared and stated that the burgesses resident in London were on their way to support him. The numbers this day were—Sir F. Blake 231; Sir D. Milne 91; Mr. Bayley 3. On Thursday the poll finally closed when the numbers were—Sir F. Blake 312; Sir D. Milne 101; Mr. Bayley 4.—*Ibid.*

This month, a neat and commodious Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at High Coniscliffe, near Darlington. Sermons were preached by the rev. Messrs. Leach and Lord, after which £10. 15s. were collected towards the building of the chapel.—*Ibid.*

April 8.—A beautiful full-length figure of Christ, in stained glass, by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, was placed in the great east window of St. Nicholas' church, in that town, at the expense of the corporation. It is an enlarged copy of a painting by Mr. Wm. Dixon, and the faithful manner in which Mr. Gibson has transferred it to the glass, evinces great skill as an artist, whilst the richness and pureness of his colours attest his proficiency in this very difficult art. Mr. Gibson, since that period, has produced many elegant and admired specimens, which have been introduced into windows, &c., of both public and private buildings.—*Ibid.*

April 18.—As the workmen in the quarries at Fulwell, near Sunderland, were removing a large block of limestone into a cart, and

finding it too large to lift, they broke the stone in two pieces, when, to their astonishment, an ask, about five inches long, with brown back and freckled belly, moved out of a cell in the solid block!—*Local Papers.*

1827 (May 5).—Died, the rev. Richard Wallis, A.M., rector of Seaham, and perpetual curate of St. Hilda, South Shields, Durham. Mr. Wallis was the eldest son of the rev. Richard Wallis, vicar of Carham (brother of the rev. John Wallis, the historian of Northumberland), and of Elizabeth, sister of the rev. John Rotheram, rector of Houghton-le-Spring. Mr. Wallis married the only daughter of the rev. John Robinson, rector and patron of the advowson of Seaham, by whom he had one son, John Wallis, A.B., of University college, who died unmarried, and three daughters, two of whom are living unmarried, and the third is the wife of Thomas Surtees Raine, esq. Mr. Wallis was distinguished through life by his strictest integrity. His disposition was retired, and he buried in the shade talents and acquirements of no common order. He cultivated music, painting, and engraving; his copies from the old masters, and his original sketches (many of which are preserved by his family), possess high merit; his knowledge of mechanics was very considerable, and several light essays and jeux d'esprit, in prose and poetry, attest his taste in composition. In his own circle, his discrimination and almost instinctive insight into character, and the originality and raciness of his observations, made him a most interesting companion. Mr. Wallis was the author of "Memoirs of the rev. John Rotheram," and of "The Group, a Poem," the plate of which includes portraits of the two brothers Rotheram, of the author, his wife and child, his sister Agnes, afterwards wife of the rev. Christopher Robinson, and of some other relatives. He met the gradual approach of age and infirmity with calm composure and real Christian resignation. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Wallis painted by R. Edmondstone, and engraved by G. H. Philips, at the expense of his family for private distribution. Mr. Wallis lies buried, by his own desire, under a spreading sycamore on the south side of Seaham churchyard, near the brink of the romantic dean.—*Local Rec.*

1827.—Through the exertions of the late rev. N. J. Hollingsworth, then incumbent of Haltwhistle, the new chapel at Greenhead, in the county of Northumberland was built, on ground given by colonel Coulson, from designs by Mr. Dobson, architect, Newcastle, and at an expense of about £800; £200 of which was contributed by Mr. Hollingsworth himself. It is fifty-four feet by twenty-five, with a tower eight feet square within, and is lighted by three lancet-shaped windows, between buttresses on the east, decorated with the arms of

the see of Durham, the earl of Carlisle, and colonel Coulson, besides other devices "beautifully delineated in stained glass by Mr. Gibson, of Newcastle." The north and south sides have each four lancet-shaped windows, also between buttresses.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1827.—This year, was removed the tower of Seghill, Northumberland, with the exception of two finely arched vaults on the ground floor, with numerous bold projecting ribs, in excellent preservation. These vaults are now incorporated with an inn which has been built on the site of the tower, and are converted into a kitchen and cellar. It stands on the north bank of Seaton-burn, one mile north of Burradon. Its walls have been of great strength, as may be observed in the recesses of the loop-hole-shaped windows of these apartments. Some of the upper rooms were ornamented with fine old tapestry and carved work in wood, which were only removed when the tower was taken down. The building consisted of three stories, with a lofty exploratory turret at one corner, from whence, in clear weather, the Yorkshire coast was distinctly visible. The tower was covered with lead, and in tolerable repair, even until the period of its demolition. By the first record we possess respecting it, it appears to have belonged to the Priory of Tynemouth in the year 1097; after a lengthened period we again discover that the manor was in the possession of Walter de Selby, who, having joined the Middleton rebellion, forfeited it to the crown in 1317. At this time Bertram de Monboucher was proprietor of the neighbouring castle and manor of Horton, and having suffered greatly during the stay of the rebel troops in his neighbourhood, Edward II. (in the following year) as a partial compensation for the injury sustained, granted him the lately forfeited tower and manor of Seghill, or as it is named in our authority* "Syhal" with all of its appurtenances, for life. Subsequently it was held under the Monbouchers and their successors, by the Delaval family, for, about the year 1416 "The Tower of Seghale" occurs as the residence of William Delaval. In the 6th year of Edward VI. (1553) it occurs as the manor of a younger branch of the antient family of Mitford. Exactly an hundred years from this date Robert Mitford occurs† as proprietor of this place, and in 1673 he added to the tower a mansion house which also has fallen to decay, together with a curious terrace garden with balustrades on the brink of each terrace, and adorned with statues, formed no doubt at the same time; but now sadly ruined and overgrown with rank weeds and filled with rub-

* *Calendarum Rotalorum Chartarum.* In the Tower of London, printed in Hodgson's Northumberland.

† *Rentals and Rates for Northumberland (1663)* printed in Hodgson.

bish. This Robert Mitford married Christian, daughter of the first Sir William Blackett of Newcastle, and left three sons who all died unmarried, and one daughter who married the Rev. — Laidman, vicar of Whalton. Their son, a surgeon in Morpeth, left no family. On their decease, Bertram Mitford (formerly a merchant at Bombay) claimed in right of settlement made on the marriage of his ancestors, to be entitled to a considerable sum of money charged on this estate, but died previous to a decision of his claim. He left an only child, Sarah Mitford, to whom, and to his wife, Sarah Mitford, he bequeathed all his property, share and share alike. The daughter married a person of the name of Spring, and the widow one of the name of Redshaw, who after considerable litigation, compromised their claims with Lancelot Allgood of Nunwick, esquire, the then owner of the estate. The Allgoods afterwards sold it to the late Sir Francis Blake of Twizell castle, whose son, Sir F. Blake, is the present proprietor.—*Border Castles. Hodgson. Mackenzie. MS. Col., &c.*



VAULT, SEGILL TOWER (1834).

CHAPTER XV.



URHAM having been miraculously pointed out as the abiding place of the body of St. Cuthbert, after having suffered inhumation, exhumation, and removal, so often as almost to exceed belief, became at once the seat of the see and the centre of attraction to the religious of the past ages. During the lapse of centuries his tomb has been opened several times to satisfy the curiosity of the superstitious, the religious, the antiquary, and lastly (which it our particular province to record) on Thursday May 17, 1827, having been (until that period) suffered to remain undisturbed, for nearly three hundred years. The marble stone which had been placed over his remains in 1542, was removed and such discoveries were then made as proved that the grave which it covered, contained the reputed remains of the sainted patron of the church of Durham. The blue stone was found to rest upon soil eighteen or twenty inches in thickness, beneath which was a large slab of freestone of nearly a similar size. In a walled grave beneath this stone, of the form of a parallelogram, appeared a chest of a similar shape, in great decay, made strong originally by rods of iron, with iron rings in its sides and ends. This was the *new coffin* made in 1542. The remains of an earlier coffin next appeared, probably that described in the investigation of 1104 as covered with skins, for there were observed upon it, evident traces of some such envelope. In connection with the fragments of the lid of the second coffin, were discovered towards its lower extremity, in a confused state, numerous human bones, some of them those of children. These were probably the relics preserved in the shrine at the dissolution, which might naturally enough have been enclosed in the new coffin prepared for the saint in 1542. These bones have been those passed off by the monks as the remains of the children slain by Herod. After these

relics were removed, a third coffin presented itself, which although in great decay, was of a character materially different from those already described. The character and decorations of the third chest proved it to be the self-same coffin, minutely described in 1104; and in consequence, the identical coffin in which the remains of St. Cuthbert were placed in Lindisfarne in the year 698. Its lid, and sides, and bottom, and ends, exhibited rude delineations in lines carved apparently with the point of a knife, of evangelists, apostles, saints, &c., and the inscriptions in connection with each figure were in characters used at the time of St. Cuthbert's death, and of a period long anterior to the settlement of the monks at Durham. In the lower end of this third coffin, and apparently placed beneath its lid, which was much broken, was discovered a full grown scull in a somewhat decayed state. This was probably the reputed scull of Oswald, king of Northumberland, the only human relic which was suffered by the investigators of 1104 to remain in the coffin of Cuthbert. When the fragments of the lid, sides, and ends of the last mentioned coffin were removed, its contents along with the bottom on which it rested were raised from the grave and placed by its side—and then it was discovered that the dark, dingy mass of matter before the eyes of the investigators, consisted of a human skeleton swathed in robes (originally) of great beauty, but most of them in great decay. The outer envelope, portions of which were adhering to the coffin, had apparently been of linen; and such was the outer envelope in which Cuthbert had been swathed in 1104. The other robes were so tattered, torn, and confused, that the exact situation of each could not be ascertained. One was of thin, amber coloured silk, ornamented with a pattern of an armed knight, riding on a richly caparisoned steed and other decorations, especially a border of rabbits. These ornaments had been covered with leaf gold portions of which still remained. A second was of thick soft silk, decorated with a pattern representing the sea, with porpoises and water fowl (perhaps the eider duck, still called Cuthbert's duck upon the Farne islands,) disporting themselves in its waves, in colours of red, yellow, and purple. The decorations of these two robes seem apparently to have reference to Lindisfarne, and its natural history. A third, of silk, had a ground of amber, with a diaper pattern of a lighter tint, the whole surrounded by a border of thick lace of a Roman pattern woven in the loom. A fourth, of silk—colours, purple and crimson, ornamented with crosses; and a fifth, of silk also,—colours, purple and crimson, embellished with a pattern in oval of an urn supported by griffins, &c. These robes seem to correspond with the general description of those in which the saint was

enveloped in 1104. Amid these decayed robes were found other relics of greater interest. 1. A coarse comb of ivory which corresponds most minutely with the ivory comb found and left in the coffin in 1104. This comb had been fabricated by Elfred the sacrist, about the year 1022, for the purpose of assisting to cut the hair of



STATUE OF ST. CUTHBERT BEARING THE HEAD OF OSWALD, KING OF NORTHUMBRIA, THE
FOUNDER OF HIS SEE. ON HIS SHRINE IN DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

the saint, which was reported to require that operation periodically; and as often as it was performed, a portion of the hair which was removed was exhibited to the spectators glittering like gold, and miraculously triumphing over the fire to which it was applied. Will it be believed that this pretended hair was in very reality gold wire itself; a quantity of which was found in connection with the scull of the skeleton during the investigation of which we are writing?

2. A small tablet of wood covered with silver, probably the silver altar spoken of as contained in the coffin in 1104. The thin covering of silver was so much broken during the removal, that a few letters only of an inscription upon its surface could be preserved. The tablet of wood, upon which the platform of silver had been laid, had apparently been used in its ornamental state for the same purpose of an altar, as it also contained an inscription in the characters of the seventh century proving that it had been fabricated in honour of St. Peter.

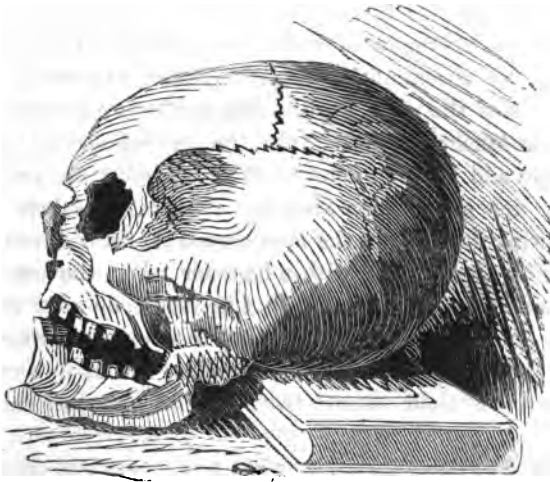
3. A small sacramental burse of the size of an octavo book, made of fine linen, and reduced by time to a dusky brown colour, as if it had been tanned.

4. A rich stole, woven with flattened threads of pure gold, and ornamented with inlet figures in tapestry work of prophets, and apostles, and evangelists, with the name of each in legible characters of silk, and an inscription in similar characters, proving that it had been made by command of Ælflæd, for the pious Bishop Frithestan.

5. A maniple of the same material, similarly ornamented, and containing a similar historical inscription. These splendid specimens of ancient art and munificence could not be removed from the skeleton in an entire state, but the greater part of both was saved; and thus a most valuable addition has been made to our knowledge of the Saxon art of weaving and embroidery. Frithestan, for whose use these robes were made, was consecrated bishop of Winchester in 909 or 910, nearly a century before Durham was pitched upon as the final resting-place of Cuthbert; and at that period there were three Ælflæds, one the daughter of king Alfred, and the wife of Ethelbert, earl of Mercia, a princess of great wisdom and resolution, and intimately connected with the civil and military history of her times. Another, Alfred's daughter-in-law, the wife of Edward the elder, his son and successor; and the third, his grand-daughter, a nun in the abbey of Winchester; and in all probability, from her connection with that place, the princess by whose command these gorgeous habiliments were made. At all events they were brought to Chester-le-Street, then the seat of our northern see, in the year 934, by king Athelstan, and offered to St. Cuthbert.

6. A girdle and two bracelets, woven with threads of pure gold and scarlet silk; the former

flattened like those of the stole and maniple above described. 7. A maniple of gold and scarlet silk of the most ingenious and ornamental texture, but from its shape and character belonging to a period a full century posterior to the year 1104; and, therefore, placed within the coffin after that period. 8. A cross of pure gold, as has been ascertained by investigation, found upon the breast bone of the skeleton, slung from its neck by a cord of silk and gold thread, running through a bright loop of the latter material, and set with fifty three stones, apparently garnets. The cross with the stones, weighs 15 dwts. 12 grs. When the skeleton of the saint was laid bare, the bones, although no longer connected by sinews and ligaments, were found to be perfect, and smooth, and dry, and in their respective places. Those of the right arm were in an elevated position, as if giving the benediction. The length which they occupied upon the bottom of the coffin measured five feet eight inches from the extremity of the scull to the ancle. The ribs and the bones of the feet had fallen from their places. A portion of the front of the scull was *faintly* marked with a tint of gold, of the breadth of a ribbon or fillet. In 1104, there was observed a fillet of gold, set with precious stones, upon the forehead of the saint. Portions of the face cloth, which at that time *was not permitted to be raised*, were also discovered; and two round artificial balls, of a whitish colour, were found in the cavities once occupied by the eyes. We subjoin an engraving of the scull, from a drawing made on the spot, and have only to say that it strictly corresponds with the description of the scull of Cuthbert, as it was seen through the cerecloth, in 1104. The bone of the nose was then observed to turn



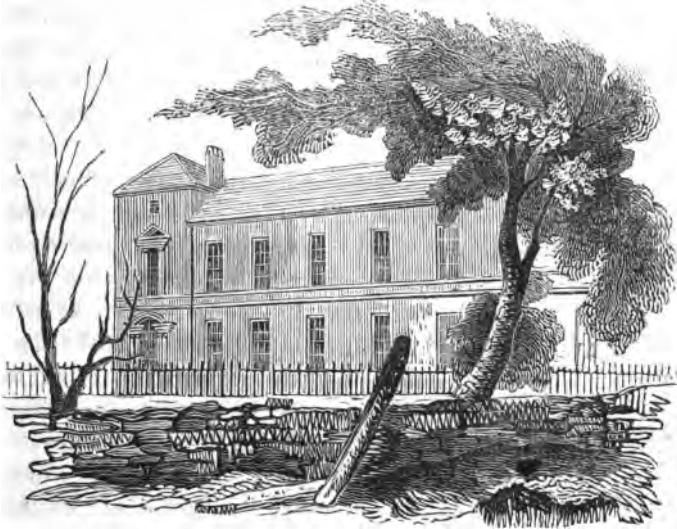
rapidly outwards, and the tip of his chin was furrowed with a line of such a depth that a finger might almost be laid in the cavity. The result of this investigation proved that these were the reputed remains of St. Cuthbert, and that the story of his incorruptibility was the invention of the monks of Lindisfarne. With the exception of the bones already mentioned, the inner coffin appeared to have at no period contained animal matter, as no traces of flesh and blood were found, even in their most decomposed state. The dust and ashes, in connection with the skeleton, were those of the various robes in which it had been clad from time to time, to give it the bulk and appearance of a body in a state of preservation; and, still further, to keep up that appearance, the cavities of the eyes had been purposely stuffed with a composition, that the face-cloth, which, as we have already stated, was not suffered to be raised in 1104, might be fitly supported, and exhibit externally the form of eye-balls below. The bones of Cuthbert, and the other human relics found in his grave, were re-interred the same evening, in a new coffin, with the various fragments of the two external coffins already mentioned, and the grave was closed as before. Such portions of the inner coffin as were preserved, including one of its rings, with the fragments of the silver altar, and that of wood, together with the cross, the ivory comb, the stole, the two maniples, the bracelets, the girdle, the gold wire from the scull, the remains of the five outer robes, and some of the rings of the outer coffin made in 1542, were removed into the manuscript closet of the Library, where they are now carefully preserved.—*Raine's Dur. Cath.**

May 22.—Died, in the poorhouse at Sunderland, Wm. Geddes, aged 101 years.—

May 24.—Being Ascension day, there was an unusually grand shew to accompany that worthy magistrate, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, in the annual survey, according to ancient custom, of the boundaries of the river Tyne. This festive occasion was attended with some melancholy events. On the preceding day, at Messrs. Losh, Wilson and Bell's foundry at Walker, whilst the workmen were trying some new guns which they had prepared to salute the barges on the following day, one of the men named Andrew Percy was in the act of striking the ramrod with a hammer when the gun exploded, and his bowels were so lacerated that he died soon after reaching the infirmary. Another man was hurt, but his wounds were not serious. On the Thursday, as the barges were passing Mr. Reay's raff-yard, at Walker-quay, on their return from Shields, another man, named

* From which also, are copied the two accompanying illustrations.

Thomas Bell, was so dreadfully injured by the bursting of a large gun, that he died in a few hours after being removed to the Infirmary, at Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.



INFIRMARY, NEWCASTLE, EAST FRONT (1827).

1827 (May 29).—The new Catholic chapel at Darlington, though then in an unfinished state, was opened to the public, when high mass was celebrated by the right reverend Doctor Smith, and an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by the rev. Richard Gillow, of Ushaw college. The solemn service was attended by a numerous and respectable assemblage of persons of different religious persuasions, who testified their gratification by a subscription of £31. 14s. 10½d. towards defraying the expenses incurred by the erection of the sacred edifice. This is a very neat and commodious place of worship, seventy feet long and forty feet wide, and designed by Ignatius Bonomi, esq. It is in the gothic style, yet simple and unadorned. About forty years ago, the whole catholic population did not exceed twenty individuals, who assembled in a room. At present, independent of any influx of strangers, and though till the year 1824, they were attended but once a month by a priest from Stockton, the catholics of Darlington amount to about two hundred. The congregation from the country rather exceeds that number, and this circumstance, added to the bad state of the old chapel, rendered necessary the present erection. The rev. Wm. Hogarth is the incumbent.—*Local Rec.*

May 30.—A neat and commodious chapel, for the use of the Independent denomination, was opened for public worship at Staindrop,

when the rev. W. H. Stowell, of North Shields, the rev. J. Jackson, of Green Hammerton, and the rev. J. Parsons, of York, preached on the occasion.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (May 31).—The new Catholic chapel, at the east end of Old Elvet, in the city of Durham, and dedicated to St. Cuthbert, was opened with great ceremony. High mass was performed by the rev. Dr. Smith, bishop of Bolino, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, assisted by the rev. R. Gillow, of Ushaw college, the rev. Thomas Gillow, of North Shields, and others; and an appropriate sermon was preached by the rev. James Wheeler. A band of fifteen musicians from Madame Tussaud's exhibition and the theatre, executed one of Mozart's grand masses with great effect. About 400 persons were present, and a collection made in aid of the building, amounted to upwards of £49, which was ultimately increased before the close of the day by private contributions, to upwards of £90.—*Ibid.*

May.—At this time the church at Newburn was undergoing considerable external and internal repairs, much of it being rebuilt; the windows had all new stone mullions, and the altar window was considerably improved by stained glass being inserted.—*Ibid.*

June 7.—Died, at Birch's nook, near Stocksfield-hall, Northumberland, John Green, husbandman, aged 101 years. His descendants, at the time of his death, amounted to above 100 persons.—*Ibid.*

June 8.—The London General Steam Navigation Company's Steam packet, the Hylton Jolliffe, with two engines of 100 horse power, arrived for the first time at Newcastle from London, which place she left on the 6th of June. She sailed from Newcastle on the 9th of the same month on her return to London, and to continue sailing between those places during the summer season.—*Ibid.*

June 12.—A new bowling green was opened in Newcastle, on which occasion the members (about twenty in number) dined in a temporary hotel upon the ground. Mr. Crawhall acted as president, and Mr. George Burnet, as vice-president. The bowlers were honoured with the company of the mayor, sheriff, and town clerk. The bowling-green is on the north-west side of the town, without the walls, on a plot of ground, formerly called the Mayor's field, as also the Warden's close, adjoining the Bath-lane.—*Ibid.*

June 13.—A fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. Edward Swinton, cabinet-maker, in Fenkle-street, Alnwick. The engines belonging to the town were quickly on the spot, but the flames were not extinguished until the house was totally destroyed.—*Ibid.*

June 14.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop at Lumley Forge, which destroyed the building and its contents.—*Ibid.*

June 18.—The foundation stone of a chapel of ease to Bishopwear-

mouth church, was laid in John-street, by the rev. Dr Wellesley, the new rector, who had arrived at that place on the 16th, and was inducted into the living on the 17th. This edifice was consecrated by the bishop of Durham, October 14th, 1829.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (June 23).—A handsome silver medal was presented to Thomas Wilson, of Holy Island, pilot, by the Royal Humane Society, for his meritorious conduct in rescuing the lives of his fellow creatures from a watery grave when shipwrecked.—*Ibid*.

About this time, at Springwell colliery, near Ayton Banks, the trunk of an ash tree, measuring about four feet in length, was sawn into four divisions, when there was discovered in the very heart of the tree, a perfectly formed bird's nest with one egg. The trunk appeared perfectly sound with the exception of the part which contained the nest.—*Ibid*.

July 3.—The lord bishop of Durham held visitations and confirmations, for the first time, in various of the towns of his diocese, commencing with his visitation at the city of Durham on the above day, and ending with his confirmation at Stanhope on the 3rd of August.—*Ibid*.

Same day, an experiment was made at the head of the quay, Newcastle, with an apparatus belonging to the North British Fire Office, for the purpose of rescuing persons from the upper part of a house when on fire. It had a pole and a basket worked by mechanical means in the street, and completely answered the purpose intended.—*Ibid*.

July 4.—The remains of the duke of Gordon, attended by several mourning coaches and six, decorated with all "the pomp of heraldry," arrived at the Queen's head inn, Newcastle, and departed northward the next morning. It was rather a singular circumstance, that on the 11th as the remains approached Gordon castle, the east wing of that structure was in flames, and with its contents was destroyed. The duke's apartments were in this wing.—*Local Rec*.

Same day, during the race week at Newcastle, Mr. Baird's bay colt, Freebooter, by Champignon, out of Orange Boven, when near ending his exercise on the morning of this day on the race ground, dropped down and expired. He was full of life and play at the setting off. The rider escaped without injury.—*Ibid*.

July 5.—Two men were burnt to death at Morton lime kilns, near Staindrop. They had attended the kilns for several years, and on this day as a kiln did not sink after they had added some fresh stones to it, they incautiously went upon it to make it do so, and unfortunately they both slipped in; one of them to his waist, and the other nearly over head.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, the lord bishop of Durham and suite, arrived at the

mansion-house, Newcastle, for the first time after his elevation to that see. His lordship held a visitation at St. Nicholas' church, the next day, and afterwards entertained the clergy, the mayor, sheriff, &c., at the Assembly-rooms. The following day, his lordship held a confirmation in the same church. The mansion-house was his lordship's residence during his stay.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (July 9).—The bishop of Durham held a confirmation at Ryton, and on the afternoon of the same day laid the foundation stone of the new church of St. Paul, at Winlaton in that parish. There was a masonic procession and a numerous assemblage of spectators. This church was opened and consecrated, September 9th, 1828.—*Ibid*.

July 12.—The Scots church at Monkwearmouth, in connexion with the established church of Scotland, was opened for divine worship, The rev. John Wood, A.M., commenced the service; afterwards the rev. Henry Gray, A.M., of Edinburgh, and the rev. Robert Balfour Graham, of North Berwick, preached impressive sermons on the occasion. This building is from a design by Mr. John Dobson, of Newcastle, architect.—*Ibid*.

July 16.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, a column of dust, &c., arose, as if caused by a whirlwind, at the south-east corner of the ballast-hills, near Newcastle. It assumed the form of a pyramid, about seventy feet high, and moved in a direction towards the row of houses on the north-east side of the open space in front of the burial ground, against which it broke and nearly smothered a poor woman who was carrying a basket of earthen ware. It was partly composed of small stones and cinders, and was as broad at the bottom as a large hay stack.—*Ibid*.

July 20.—About four o'clock on the morning, nine men were burnt by the fire-damp in the Charles pit, Lumley colliery; some of them severely. The accident was caused by a young man named Foster, going to a wrong part of the pit with his candle. There were upwards of 200 men and boys in the pit at the time. August 3rd, Robert Oughton, one of the sufferers, died in consequence.—*Ibid*.

Same day, the burgesses of Berwick in guild assembled, unanimously voted an honorary ticket of the freedom of the borough to the lord bishop of Durham, then in that place on his first tour through his diocese. The worshipful the mayor, and bailiffs, town-clerk, and coroner, accompanied by David Logan and John Steavenson, esqrs., waited upon his lordship at the inn, and presented him with it. His lordship expressed himself highly gratified by the honour.—*Ibid*.

July 23.—The committee of the common council of Newcastle, to whom the subject had been referred, determined upon the model on which the new chapel of St. Thomas was to be constructed near the

Barras-bridge, at the north entrance of the town, in lieu of the old chapel at the north end of Tyne-bridge, then about to be taken down to widen the entrance from the southward. Three models were exhibited, and one of the two brought forward by Mr. Dobson was preferred. The model which was of the style of the 13th century, was executed under Mr. Dobson's directions by Mr. Welsh, junior, of Gateshead. The other model was furnished by Mr. Green, of Newcastle, architect, to whom the decision was officially communicated in very handsome terms by the town-clerk, stating that the committee considered his design as highly creditable to his talents, although the resolutions to which they had come, not without difficulty, occasioned the adoption of another.—*Local Papers*.



VAULTS BENEATH ST. THOMAS'S CHAPEL, TYNE BRIDGE END (1827).

1827 (July).—Died, at Mitford, near Morpeth, aged 22, Mr. Henry Walker, a native of Jamaica; who by his will, left 2*l.* and freedom to every slave on his estate there.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 31.—The corner stone of a new Presbyterian chapel was laid at Warkworth, in Northumberland, for the congregation in connexion with the united secession church of Scotland, by the rev. David Patterson, of Alnwick, in the presence of the committee of managment, and several of the respectable members from Alnwick and the neighbourhood. There was a deposit of the several coins of George IV., and several silver coins of an ancient date, also a MS. bearing the date of the building, names of the committee, architect, and contractors for the building, inclosed in glass, sunk in the stone

and covered with a plate of iron. Sunday, May 1st, 1828, this building was first opened for divine service, on which occasion the rev. James Pringle, of Newcastle, preached on the morning; the rev. Henry Lawson, of South Shields, in the afternoon, and the rev. Robert Pollock, in the evening, when collections were made towards defraying the expences of the building.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (Aug. 4).—Under this date the following notice was given:—"NOTICE TO FARMERS."—The hiring of labourers and reapers for the harvest will not be permitted as heretofore at Sandgate, or within any part of the liberties of Newcastle, on the Sabbath day.—Archibald Reed, mayor." In consequence of this notice a bill was posted stating that a hiring would be held at the Westgate, on Sunday, the 19th, after church hours, which took place accordingly, for the first time, and was continued during the time of harvest, annually till the year 1842, when, by an order of the town council, it was discontinued.—*Ibid.*, &c.

August.—This month, great damage was caused in Glendale Ward, Northumberland, by immense floods.—*Ibid.*

August.—In the foundation of an old house, which had this month been pulled down in Tynemouth, large quantities of human bones were dug up, many in a perfect state.—*Ibid.*

August.—At this time there was residing in good health at Ferryhill, Durham, a woman, named Catherine Moralee, then in the 107th year of her age. At the time the great flood carried away Newcastle bridge (1771), she was confined to her bed, in childbirth, and was carried out of the house to a place of safety.—*Ibid.*

September 5.—An explosion of gas took place at Fawdon colliery, near Newcastle, when three young men were much burnt, two of whom shortly afterwards died.—*Ibid.*

September 8.—John Chisholm, apprentice to a butcher in Berwick, was sent to the Magdalen Field to bring in a sheep for slaughter. He caught it near the Redout, where the beach is very precipitous; the animal began to struggle, and, being on the verge of the precipice, not less than forty or fifty feet high, both tumbled over. Fortunately for the lad, the sheep was undermost, and was killed on the spot. The young man was completely stunned by the fall, and received some very severe contusions. He was carried home in a state of insensibility, but finally recovered.—*Ibid.*

September 9.—A new Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at North Cowton, near Darlington, when sermons were preached by the rev. N. Bann, of Barnardcastle, and Mr. John Kepler, of Darlington, and collections were made in aid of the funds.—*Ibid.*

September 24.—His grace the duke of Wellington visited Stock-

ton, on which occasion, at the entrance to the High street, a lofty triumphal arch was erected, formed of laurel, &c., surmounted by seven flags, with appropriate mottoes. As he had to dine at Wynyard, the seat of the marquis of Londonderry, there was a grand procession of the nobility, gentry, &c., in carriages, and on horseback, to meet the hero of Waterloo, which they did at Yarm bridge. His grace immediately entered lady Londonderry's carriage, which was drawn by six horses; the procession then returned to Stockton. Previous to entering that town the horses had been taken from the carriage in which he rode, and he was drawn by a number of men, wearing blue ribbons, inscribed "Wellington for ever," through the triumphal arch to the Town-hall, amidst the firing of cannon, &c. On the arrival of the illustrious stranger near to the Town-hall, the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of Stockton, and the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of Hartlepool, in their robes, approached the carriage to present an address from each of those corporate bodies; and colonel Grey also advanced with an address from the inhabitants of Stockton and its neighbourhood; to each of which his grace replied. The illustrious party afterwards partook of a cold collation in the assembly-room which was most tastefully and appropriately fitted up for the purpose. After many healths had been drunk, his grace intimated to the mayor of Stockton that a party was engaged to meet him at dinner at Wynyard; his grace and other visitors then rose, and, bowing to the company, took leave amidst the most deafening cheers. The party assembled by invitation of the marquis of Londonderry to meet the duke of Wellington at dinner, were the earl and countess Bathurst, earl Grey, marquis of Douro, the bishop of Durham and his lady, lords Beresford, Ravensworth, and Castlereagh, hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley, hon. Henry Thomas Liddell, sir John and lady Ann Beckett, sir Roger and lady Sophia Griesley, sir Henry and lady Emily Hardinge, sir Thomas Lawrence, sir Henry Browne, sir Cuthbert Sharp, generals Aylmer and Seddon, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., Rev. Dr. Phillpotts, R. Burdon, esq., colonel Freemantle, Dr Forbes, and Mr. Stapleton.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (Sep. 28).—His grace arrived in Newcastle, where every preparation had been made to receive him. A temporary platform was erected in front of the Guildhall. It was of wood, but coloured to resemble stone; the steps and stage were covered with cloth. The Guildhall was decorated with flags, and several were suspended from the windows of private houses. The ships in the river had all their decorations floating in the air. A new flag was prepared for the castle, containing 500 yards of cloth, the seaming of which extended 1,500 yards. About half-past two o'clock the Tyne hussars, com-

manded by lieut.-col. Campbell, and the Northumberland and Newcastle cavalry, and the dismounted troop, commanded by lieut.-col. Bell, mustered on the Town-moor, for the purpose of being inspected by his grace. The lancers from the barracks kept the ground. A few minutes before three o'clock a guard of honour of the lancers passed into Gateshead, to receive his grace.* About an hour after, the bells of Gateshead church announced that the duke was at hand, and, on his reaching the blue-stone on Tyne-bridge, the roaring of the castle guns, and those of the ships in the harbour, and the ringing of the bells of all the churches, announced that the "Hero of Waterloo," was then making his entry into "Canny Newcastle." His grace had left Wynyard that morning, accompanied by most of the illustrious visitors who had assembled at that place on the 24th to meet him, and the whole had come forward in carriages to partake of the well-known hospitalities of the mansion-house of Newcastle. At the head of Gateshead the horses were taken from the open carriage which contained his grace, the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, and field-marshal Beresford, preceded by an excellent band of music, and twelve men bearing banners inscribed with the names of his grace's greatest battles; it was drawn by the people to the front of the platform on the Sandhill. His grace then alighted, and, handing out the marchioness, who leaned on his arm, ascended the steps, and received the hearty welcome and congratulations of the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, and the numerous group of members of the corporation, and other individuals. The other carriages drove up in rapid succession, and the distinguished visitors having alighted, they were received by the mayor, the aldermen, sheriff, and common council, and their friends. The recorder then proceeded to read the address of the corporate body, after which the mayor presented the freedom of the town to his grace, who in very courteous terms returned thanks. The mayor then, filling a glass of wine, stepped to the front of the platform, and said, "my friends and fellow townsmen, I drink to the health of the illustrious hero, his grace the duke of Wellington." This was followed by three hearty cheers from the multitude assembled in front, amid the thunder of cannon and the ringing of bells. His

* On the visit of the duke of Wellington to Newcastle, a circumstance took place on Gateshead Fell, which is worthy of record.—While fresh horses were putting to the marquis of Londonderry's carriage, at the sign of the Cannon, a veteran accosted his grace, and the latter entered into familiar conversation with him. The duke, finding this individual had been with the British army in several of the victories gained by his grace, generously gave him a sovereign to drink his health, which the old soldier would, no doubt, punctually observe, as he facetiously replied, that he always strictly attended to the orders of his superiors.



ENTRANCE TO THE SIDE FROM THE SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE WITH KATY'S
COFFEE HOUSE, THE LORT BURN &c. (1640).

Designed from old views, plans, existent and lately existent remains, &c.

grace briefly returned thanks. The vicar of Newcastle and several of the clergy were then introduced to his grace. Christopher Cookson, esq., then presented to his grace the address of the inhabitants in an elegant speech, in which he was much applauded. The duke seemed to listen with much attention, and as soon as Mr. Cookson had concluded, his grace addressed that gentleman and the other members of the deputation from the inhabitants of the town. The above proceedings having terminated, the carriages were ordered up, and the illustrious party took their seats, and, according to previous arrangements, the procession moved off to the moor, the carriage in which his grace sat being drawn by the populace. At the Barras-

bridge his grace, accompanied by his gallant companions in arms (the marquis of Londonderry and field-marshal lord Beresford), alighted, and, mounting their chargers, proceeded to the Town-moor, to inspect the troops there assembled. It was near six o'clock before the review was finished, and, as the evening had set in foggy and wet, all hurried off the ground as quick as possible. The dinner at the mansion-house was of the most splendid description. It was served up in three rooms, and the number that sat down was about 240. An excellent band of music played during the dinner, and the toasts, &c., given by the mayor, were announced to the rooms by the sound of the horn. To give the loyal and appropriate toasts and speeches during this festive occasion would far exceed our limits. The ball at the Assembly-rooms was attended by 656 ladies and gentlemen. The merry dance was led off by lord Ossulston and the marchioness of Londonderry, to the tune of "The Keel Row." The duke of Wellington left the rooms about one o'clock for Ravensworth castle, where he slept. The carriage was attended by twelve torch bearers on horseback, six before and six behind. By a request from the mayor, the shops were all closed on this occasion. A view of his grace's reception on the Sandhill was etched by Mr. John Archer.—*Local Papers.*

1827 (Oct. 4).—The duke of Wellington visited Sunderland, when a grand dinner was given to him in the exchange. The ladies of Sunderland and the Wearmouths having entered into a subscription to form a triumphal arch across the High-street at Sunnyside, a most elegant structure, covered with evergreens and flowers, was raised at their expense. On the top of the arch, in the centre, a standard, bearing the arms of the United Kingdom, waved majestically, and over it was a long streamer inscribed "THE LADIES' WELCOME TO WELLINGTON." On each side of these were three flags, bearing the names of some of the duke's splendid victories. The arch was an object of universal admiration. At night an effulgent star produced by gas, was suspended under it, and had a most brilliant effect. On the front of the exchange were the words "WELCOME TO WELLINGTON AND HIS BRAVE COMPANIONS IN ARMS." This building was also decorated, exterior and interior, with variegated lamps. The duke reached Sunderland about five o'clock; he was drawn into the town by a number of men who had taken the horses from his carriage. In passing under the triumphal arch, roses and crowns of laurel were dropped into the carriage of the duke by three young ladies dressed in white who were placed on the centre of the arch. The pressure in the High-street as the duke advanced towards the exchange was really frightful. On arriving opposite to the exchange, his grace alighted

from the carriage, and, accompanied by the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, &c., proceeded to a platform erected in the street, and was there received by George Robinson, esq., sir Cuth. Sharp, Addison Fenwick, esq., and other gentlemen of Sunderland. An address was then read and presented to his grace by Mr. Robinson, to which his grace made a suitable reply. Three hearty cheers were then given by the gentlemen within the exchange, and immediately answered by the multitude without. On leaving the platform, the distinguished visitors entered the exchange, and about half past six o'clock proceeded to the spacious dining-room (news-room), which was very tastefully fitted up for the occasion. The marquis of Londonderry, at the request of the committee of management, took the chair, having on his right hand earl Bathurst, the marquis of Douro, lord Beresford, hon. captain Cochrane, sir Henry Hardinge, lord Castle-reagh, and Mr. Stapleton; and on his left, the duke of Wellington, lord Ravensworth, sir Walter Scott, hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley, hon. H. T. Liddell, sir Roger Griesley, and the hon. Thomas Liddell. Sir Cuthbert Sharp filled the vice-president's chair. The number who partook of the dinner was 204; above 100 applications for tickets were refused, the arrangements not admitting a larger number than the party accommodated. After many healths and toasts and several excellent speeches, the chairman intimated to the company that his friends and himself must bid them farewell, their attendance at the ball-room being expected. The assembly-rooms were crowded to excess, and the noble party did not retire until after one o'clock. The ball was opened by the marquis of Douro and marchioness of Londonderry, and they were followed by the marquis of Londonderry and lady Sophia Greisley.—*Local Papers.*

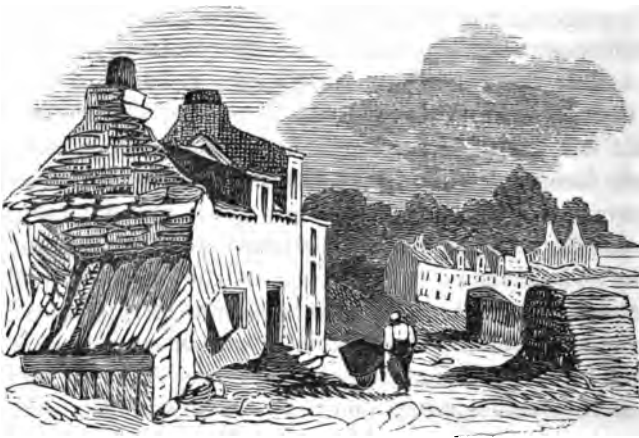
During his grace's stay in the northern counties he visited the bishop of Durham, at Durham castle, where, with the nobility and gentry of the county, he was entertained with a very splendid banquet. The duke also paid a visit to John Buddle, esq., at Painsher, where he partook of a cold collation, and afterwards visited some of the collieries, in company with that gentleman.—*Ibid.*

1827 (Oct. 4).—A new methodist chapel was opened for divine service at Hurworth, near Darlington, by Mr. William Dawson, of Bramham, near Leeds, and the rev. Robert Wood, of York, after which £23. 10s. were collected in aid of the funds.—*Ibid.*

October.—A human skeleton apparently that of a full-grown man, was found at Hayston-hill, near Houghton-le-spring. Two men employed at the limestone-quarry at that place having been ordered to remove the soil from a part of the hill opposite to the quarry, found the skeleton at a depth of about two feet from the surface,

It was doubled up in a manner which left no doubt of murder having been committed. The teeth and a part of the hair still remained attached to the skull, and the marl around the skeleton was much discoloured, apparently by the recent decomposition of the body.—*Local Papers.*

1827.—This year, as the ship *Ann*, captain Hutchinson, of Shields, was leaving Aberdeen for Newcastle, a pair of sparrows were observed to commence building their nest under the slings of the fore-yard, and, what appears very remarkable, on the vessel's arrival at Dent's Hole, on the river Tyne, a little below Newcastle, the birds went on shore and brought materials to finish their house.—*Ibid.*



COTTAGES, DENT'S HOLE.

November 3.—The freeholders of Northumberland, and friends of Matt. Bell, esq., presented him, at the assembly-rooms, Newcastle, with an elegant piece of silver plate, a candelabrum, value £500.—*Ibid.*

November 9.—The marquis of Londonderry was presented with the freedom of Newcastle, on which occasion, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung several merry peals.—*Ibid.*

On this occasion, during the ringing of the bells of St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, one of the pinnacles at the top of the lantern was observed to be in a very tottering condition, in consequence of which, a scaffolding was erected and the steeple examined, when it was found to require very considerable repairs. The iron cramps, from the coverings of lead having been torn off by the violence of the wind, were much decayed, and the cement with which it had been filled in various places about thirty years before, was in a great measure destroyed. It therefore became necessary that the steeple should undergo a thorough repair by the insertion of new cramps of

copper instead of iron, and filling up with Roman cement those places which required it. Several of the small pinnacles were replaced with new mason work, the vanes were repaired, the whole of them regilt, and the steeples pointed. Strong iron bands were also put round the pinnacles at the corners of the tower, and inserted into the cross beams. These repairs continued until December 21st, when the scaffolding was taken down.—*Local Papers*.

1827 (Nov. 11).—Died, Thomas Graham, aged 102 years, he was a native of Northumberland, and was employed to drive a baggage waggon at the time of the rebellion in 1745.—*Gent's. Mag.*

December 5.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as Mr. John Nicholson, son of Mr. John Nicholson, of Newcastle, and pupil of Mr. Henzell, surgeon, was riding along Sandycroft-lane, near Newcastle, his horse ran away, and in making the turn at Sandycroft-bridge, the animal struck the battlement and fell, but it immediately rose and leaped from the bridge into the rocky channel below, being a depth of thirty-six feet perpendicular. The unfortunate young man was so dreadfully bruised and injured, that he lingered, in an insensible state until seven o'clock in evening, when he expired. It is a singular fact, that when the horse struck the battlement, the coping stone which had "LAMBERT'S LEAP" cut upon it, was thrown off into the dean below and broken in pieces. There is a strange coincidence in these two accidents:—They were both young men, and the leaps had been both made at the same part of the bridge. The only difference is that Mr. Lambert survived and his horse was killed, but in this instance the horse was so little injured, that a person rode it into town for assistance.—*Local Rec.*

December 9.—Died, at Morpeth, aged 101 years, Elizabeth, widow of John Rutherford, who was son to Baldric, the last lord Rutherford, and heir to the title and estates.—*Gent's. Mag.*

December 24.—Died, at Chelsea, near London, Mr. John Scott, the celebrated animal engraver. Mr. Scott, who was a self-taught artist was a native of Newcastle, where he served his time as a tallow chandler. His first piece which came before the public, was an engraving, in group, of the king, queen, and dauphin of France, for the "Historical View of the French Revolution," published by M. Angus, in 1796. This astonishing performance was done without any previous instruction. Mr. Scott afterwards removed to London, where he finished several hundreds of engravings, which are all in high estimation. "The Sportsman's Cabinet," "The Sporting Magazine," Mr. Daniel's "Rural Sports," and other works of a similar nature, owe much of their reputation to the exquisite delicacy and truth of Mr. Scott's graver. His engraving of "THE COTTAGE" in the "Fine

Arts of the English School," is perhaps his finest piece, but what established his fame most were his two large prints "BREAKING COVER" and "THE DEATH OF THE FOX," after Gilpin and Reinagle. For these exquisite specimens of the art, Mr. Scott was on the 28th of May, 1811, presented with a large gold medal by the Society of Arts, and at the same time received a very high compliment from his royal highness the duke of Sussex, in the presence of a large assembly of the nobility and gentry. These prints are possessed by every lover of art who prize pictures of animals and field sports. In March 1821, this artist suffered a sever paralytic stroke, from which he never afterwards recovered. Mr. Scott published in 1823 a portrait of his mother, Mrs. Mary Scott. There is a good portrait of this artist painted by Mr. Jackson, R.A., and engraved by Fry.—*Local Rec.*

1827.—Horton chapel, Northumberland, was rebuilt. The old chapel was of very ancient foundation. The parish registers contain entries of baptisms from 1648, of marriages from 1660, and of burials from 1725.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1828 (Jan. 11).—Died, in Pilgrim street, Newcastle, after a short illness, aged 62, Mr. William Henderson, a native of Northumberland. In the early part of his life he worked as a pitman, and having received an injury, he was admitted a patient of the Infirmary, Newcastle. Here he contracted an intimacy with one of the nurses of that institution, whom he married. On the erection of the House of Recovery in 1804, Mrs. Henderson was appointed matron, and Mr. Henderson became inspector, which situation he held until his wife's death. Having during the time he was attached to this institution, acquired (as he said) more knowledge of medicine than all the faculty put together, he added Doctor to his name, and published a very ludicrous and eccentric book entitled "Every Man his own Doctor, in the treatment of Fever, and other important diseases incident to the human frame. Being the result of 22 years' practice and observation of the treatment and cure of various diseases. With Rhymes to gratify the mind. By William Henderson, late Inspector of the Fever Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne," with a portrait prefixed. As a specimen of his abilities in the rhyming way, it is only necessary to give the memorable lines from the title-page of his book.

"In the country and the town,
Here wisdom may be found;
This book in a pupil's hand,
Will make him a wiser man;
His voice may give the sound,
And say, 'tis worth a hundred pound"!!

For this hundred pounds' worth of invaluable information, he modestly charged 3s. 6d. It was "Printed for the author by J. Marshall, Old Flesh Market, 1827." It consists of 86 pages; the portrait, which is prefixed to this morceau of a book, is engraved by Mr. Isaac Nicholson, from a painting by Parker, and is an excellent likeness. This work is a treat as it is, but what would it have been, if given in its original orthography? After the doctor's publication appeared, he received various letters signed "Robert Southey" and other fictitious names, lauding his pre-eminent abilities; all of which this very simple man believed to be genuine, and carried them about his person for exhibition; indeed there seemed nothing in the shape of praise too monstrous for him.—*Local Rec.*

1828 (Jan. 17).—John George Lambton, esq., M. P., for the county of Durham, having been created a peer by the style and title of baron Durham, of the city of Durham, and of Lambton castle, in the county of Durham, a new writ for an M. P. for the county was issued January 29th, when he was succeeded on the 13th of February in the same year, by William Russell, esq., of Brancepath castle, Durham.—*Ibid.*

January 27.—Sunday evening lectures commenced in St. John's church, Newcastle, for which purpose it was first lighted with gas.—*Local Papers.*

January 28–29.—Died, in Pandon bank, Newcastle, within a few hours of each other, John Anderson, mustard manufacturer, and Mary his wife. She died on the evening of the 28th. and he on the morning of the 29th. They were both interred in one grave, attended by a large number of friends.

"John Anderson, my Jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither,
And mony a canty day, John,
We've had with ane anither:
Now we maun totter down, John,
But hand in hand we'll go,
And sleep thegither at the foot,
John Anderson, my Jo."

Gent's. Mag.

About the beginning of this year, a curious phenomenon astonished, and not a little alarmed, the villagers of Norton, in the county of Durham. In a field in the immediate vicinity of that place, an aperture in the ground was discovered, from which a hissing noise issued, louder than can be imitated by the human voice. It was examined with some attention by several gentlemen who had the earth removed, by digging to a considerable depth around the hole, with a view to ascertain the cause, but without effect. Some of the

less enlightened believed the whispers which proceeded from the aperture to be hints of an approaching earthquake, while others fancied they could hear, through the fissure, the sound of hammering in the lower regions. Certain it is that for some time the noise was daily and hourly heard. It is probable that it was occasioned by a rush of some description of gas, with which the earth, in that particular place had been overcharged; and, if so, its escape was more likely to prevent, than portend, an earthquake.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1828 (Feb. 11).—Died, at Wallsend, Ann Usher, aged 102 years, who, during the last thirty years of her life, had received parochial relief to the amount of £157. 18s. from that place.—*Local Papers.*

This month, the new gaol and house of correction at Newcastle were finished, and the prisoners, &c., were removed to that building from the castle.—*Ibid.*



GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT IN THE CASTLE OF NEWCASTLE (1826).

CHAPTER XVI.



ON Sunday the 17th of February, 1828, between one and two o'clock, as two boys, named John Martin and William Lee, 11 and 12 years of age, (the former belonging to Pandon, the latter to Pilgrim street, Newcastle), were sliding on a pond in the brick-yard, at the Shield-field, unfortunately the ice broke under Lee's feet, and he sunk; but, rising again, he caught hold of the firmer part of the ice. Martin, perceiving the dangerous situation of his companion, hastened to assist him, and in endeavouring to pull him out of the water, more of the ice gave way, and they both sunk; poor Martin to rise no more! but Lee again appeared and again caught hold of the ice, and kept his head above water. By this time many people had gathered about the pond; but none of them rendered efficient assistance, till a young man, named Matthew Robinson, apprentice to Messrs. Mackenzie and Dent, printers, came to the spot, who, at the peril of his own life, went along a plank, and though the ice broke in with him, and he was immersed to the armpits, he happily succeeded in rescuing Lee from a watery grave.—*Local Papers.*

February 18.—At Barnard-castle, a woman, aged 63, engaged to walk one hundred miles in twenty-four hours, which she completed in twenty hours!—*Ibid.*

February 18.—A splendid ball and supper were given by the bachelors of Durham and its neighbourhood, to the ladies and gentlemen of that city and the adjacent country, which took place at the Assembly-rooms. The company began to assemble soon after nine o'clock, and before ten most of the visitors had arrived. The room at that period presented a perfect galaxy of beauty,

rank and fashion. The dresses of the ladies were remarkably splendid and tasteful, and the coup d'œil extremely brilliant. The dancing commenced at ten o'clock, and was kept up with spirit till one o'clock, when the party was summoned to the most elegant supper ever served in Durham upon any occasion. John Allan, esq., of Black-well, presided, and he gave a peculiar zest to the entertainment by the felicitous manner in which he acquitted himself in the chair. He delivered a very entertaining speech in proposing the health of the ladies who had honoured the bachelors with their company, and concluded, by expressing a hope, that their fascinations might have the happy effect of inducing some of his fraternity to change their state of life. The supper being concluded, and several appropriate toasts drunk, the party returned to the ball room, when dancing was resumed and kept up with unabated spirit until a late hour in the morning.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Feb.).—This month a sepulchre of large dimensions, and of rude form and construction, was discovered at Millfield-hill, in Northumberland. It differed entirely from any of the tumuli which had before been opened in that neighbourhood. Some teeth and pieces of bone, evidently the remains of human bodies were found, and also several teeth, so large, that they must have belonged to an animal of no less size than a full-grown horse.—*Ibid.*

March 4.—Early in the morning, a pugilistic encounter took place in a field near the town moor, Newcastle, between Miles Railton, a butcher, and Robert Entwistle, of the Close, in that town, in which the latter was so severely bruised, that he died in a few hours. Railton, who, with others his companions, had been before the judges at the preceding assizes for Newcastle, was committed by the coroner, for trial on a charge of Manslaughter.—*Ibid.*

March 13.—The Tyne yeomanry hussars were finally disbanded, and returned their arms and accoutrements to the stores in Gateshead. In taking leave of the corps, lieut. col. Campbell addressed them at considerable length, thanking them for the gratifying attention he had at all times experienced, during the many years he had served in the regiment, and more particularly for the zeal and alacrity evinced in obeying his orders, during the period he had had the honour of commanding them. The corps had existed since the year 1794, it being then first embodied under the command of lieut. col. Peareth of Usworth house. How often they had been called upon to aid the civil power, both in the county of Durham and Northumberland, it is not necessary to state precisely; though it may be safely averred that, upon all occasions affecting the public peace (and these, from various causes, had not been few in the neighbourhood of New-

castle, during the thirty-four years they were embodied), their able services—tendered with mildness, and yet efficiently—had essentially contributed to the preservation of order, and in fact, had very frequently accelerated the moment of tranquility.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (March 15).—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event eight men lost their lives. No exact account of the cause of the accident could be given, but the coroner and jury were satisfied that no blame could attach to any person, as the pit was considered in a good state and well ventilated.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—The town of Sunderland presented an unusual degree of bustle and excitement. It having been previously determined by a large portion of the inhabitants that, on the departure of the depot of the 83rd Regiment from that place for Hull, some mark of respect should be paid for the humane disposition manifested by major Summerfield and his brother officers, and the good and soldier-like conduct of the privates, whilst stationed there, at six o'clock, A.M. the whole population seemed in motion. A chair, profusely decorated with evergreens and ribbons, was waiting at the barrack gate, into which the gallant major was invited, or rather forced, by the crowd to enter, and amidst the ringing of bells and huzzas of the almost countless multitude, was carried shoulder height at the head of the division, nearly to the first toll bar on the road to Durham. The band playing "God save the King," the major here left the chair, and mounting his charger, addressed the regiment and the people, in a manly, soldier-like and affecting manner. This address was immediately followed by "Rule Britannia" from the band, and after three cheers by the soldiers, they marched off, amidst the acclamations of one of the largest numbers of people ever assembled in Sunderland.—*Ibid.*

March 23.—Died, at Alnwick, Mr. Alexander English, formerly of Rothbury, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—Died, aged 72 years, highly respected, Mr. Ralph Dees, who held the situation of master of St. Nicholas' and All Saints' free-schools in succession for forty-two years, and had been secretary to the Schoolmasters' association for above thirty years. He was an unassuming and upright man, an excellent penman, and a good teacher.—*Ibid.*

This month, an elegant window, in stained glass, by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, was put up in Stockton church. The centre represents Christ bearing the cross, with other attributes, portrayed in a very superior manner. The placid countenance of the Redeemer is finely expressive of a heavenly meekness and resignation. The remainder of the window is filled with most beautiful and chaste ornamental work, and the whole so harmonises as to give it a most impos-

ing and striking appearance. Mr. Gibson's colouring, in point of brilliancy, is allowed to surpass every thing of the kind hitherto exhibited.—*Local Papers*.



DETAILS OF THE SOUTH DOOR OF MITFORD CHURCH (1830).

1828 (April 1).—A meeting was held at Mitford, near Morpeth, and a subscription was entered into for the purpose of erecting a wooden bridge over the river Wansbeck, at the High Ford, where many lives had been lost in attempting to cross at that dangerous place. From the liberality of the neighbouring and other gentry, it was resolved that a bridge of stone should be erected.—*Ibid*.

About ten o'clock at night, a fire broke out in Mrs. Crowther's premises at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, the under part of which she occupied as an iron-foundry, and above was a steam corn-mill, in the occupation of Mr. Hetherington, and a small shop rented by another person. It was supposed that the fire originated in some timber attached to the engine of the mill, and the whole of the building being of wood, such was the rapidity of the flames, all was soon a mass of burning ruins. The soap manufactory on the opposite side of the road was in imminent danger, but was saved by the playing of the engines and the exertions of those in attendance. Mr. Hetherington had in the mill about two hundred bolls of wheat, and a large quantity of flour, which were totally destroyed; but his stock, as well as the

whole of the premises and the goods were insured, with the exception of the stock of the poor man who rented the shop.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (April 6).—On the evening of this day (Sunday), the ancient chapel at the west end of Durham cathedral, called the Galilee, was opened for the first time for evening lectures, and divine service was performed by the rev. P. George, one of the minor canons, assisted by Mr. Stimpson, one of the choristers, as clerk. After which the rev. W. N. Darnell, delivered an excellent lecture.—*Ibid*.

April 11.—A fire was discovered in a stable of Mr. R. Lamb, in Blue Anchor-chare, on the Quayside, Newcastle. There were two horses in it; one of them was so much burnt, that it was considered necessary to kill it, the other died from the effects of the fire, which was soon got under.—*Ibid*.



April.—Whilst the workmen were trenching the ground, for planting, at Villa real, near Sandymoor, Newcastle, they found a curious rude stone coffin, composed of six flag stones, containing the skeleton of a tall man, in complete preservation, with an urn standing by the side of his head. It appeared to be one of the most perfect specimens of the ancient British sepulchral vases that had been found. Mr. Blackbird, the proprietor of Villa real, presented it to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

April 21.—The branch from the bank of England commenced business in a house at the south west corner of Bailiff Gate, in Newcastle. The notes are the same as the parent institution, excepting that they are dated Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

April 22.—The foundation stone of a new catholic chapel was laid in Hexham, by the rev. Mr. Singleton, of that place. Although the time of the ceremony had not been previously announced, yet a great number of spectators were present.—*Ibid*.

April 23.—About six o'clock on the morning, a fire having a most

terrific appearance, broke out in the extensive paper manufactory of Mr. Smith, at Langley, near the city of Durham. When first discovered, the flames were ascending through the ventilators on the roof of the new part of the building, and very near to Mr. Smith's dwelling house. The alarm was instantly given, and in a few minutes Mr. Smith's workmen and neighbours were on the spot. Intelligence having been speedily conveyed to Durham, the fire engines soon afterwards arrived at Langley, where also a great number of persons had assembled, who made the most praiseworthy exertions to subdue the destructive element. The room in which the fire broke out was used as a drying loft, and a great quantity of paper, in an unfinished state, was hanging upon lines within it. This burnt with amazing rapidity, and the timbers of the roof becoming ignited, very soon gave way under the weight of the slates, and the whole fell in with a tremendous crash. Masses of burning paper now rose into the air, and were scattered to a considerable distance. The fall of the roof, by checking the flames, gave an opportunity to those who worked the engines to play upon the building with effect, and the opportunity was not lost. From the great efforts now made, the fire was entirely subdued before nine o'clock. The damage was estimated at about £1,000. The property was insured.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (April 30).—The remains of the late Mr. George Henderson, of St. Ann's row, Newcastle, were interred in the burial ground attached to St. Ann's chapel in that town; and from its being the first interment in this extensive ground, a large concourse of people assembled on the occasion, and the solemn and impressive service was read by the reverend the vicar (Dodd), to whom the public are indebted for the great desideratum,—an additional cemetery, connected with the established church, which has since been opened as a place of general sepulture. The chapel and chapel-yard were consecrated by bishop Trevor, in 1768.—*Ibid*.

Died, at Bath, aged 93 years, sir John Trevelyan, bart., of Nettlecomb, Somersetshire, and of Wallington, Northumberland. Sir John was returned member for Newcastle, March 14th, 1777, after a severe contest with the celebrated profligate adventurer, Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes. Sir John was a member in the three succeeding parliaments for Somersetshire.—*Ibid*.

This month, while some workmen were employed in draining a field near Seaham, Durham, the property of the rev. O. J. Cresswell, rector of that place, they discovered in a very marshy part of it, and at a depth of about eight feet from the surface, an oaken coffin, containing human bones. The coffin fell to pieces on being exposed to the air.—*Ibid*.

1828 (May 1).—A new Presbyterian chapel belonging to the United Secession congregation at Warkworth, Northumberland, was opened for divine service, and after appropriate sermons by the rev. James Pringle, of Newcastle; the rev. Henry Lawson, of South Shields; and the rev. Robert Pollock, of Buckhaven, on that day and the following Sabbath, the sum of £28. 14s. 8d. was collected for defraying the expences of the building. The chapel is conveniently situated in the suburbs of the town, by the side of the Coquet. It is built in a substantial manner, and commodiously fitted up in the interior. The entrance front is of polished stone, well executed, and the whole has a very compact and neat appearance.—*Local Papers*.

May 2.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, John Clay, aged 100 years.—*Ibid*.

May 6.—Hude chapel (Baptist), Middleton Teesdale, founded. The register of births, 18 entries, extends from 1829 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

May 7.—The Court of Conscience first established in Newcastle in the year 1689, and held every three months, was, on the above day, commenced being held monthly.—*Local Papers*.

May 14.—Died, in Newcastle, in his 87th year, Archibald Henderson, better known by the appellation of "Bold Archy." He was of great stature and muscular power, and though his appearance to many was terrific, yet he was very inoffensive in his manners. Bold Archy is immortalized in several local songs written by Mr. Robert Gilchrist in the Newcastle dialect. He also forms one of the characters in the group of "Newcastle Eccentrics," painted by Mr. Parker, and engraved by Mr. Armstrong. In this group (14), all living in 1819, there is now (1843), only one in existence;—viz: Whin Bobby.—*Ibid.*, &c.

May 24.—Saturday, Mr. John Samuel Fenwick. eldest son of Mr. John Fenwick, of Brinkhaugh, near Felton, Northumberland, met with a premature death by the hands of his own father, and in the following manner. Between nine and ten o'clock in the morning, the deceased, his father, and the servant girl, were all in the parlour together. The deceased was standing at a desk, and his father close to him, with a gun in his hand, which he told the servant girl he meant to take to Morpeth with him that day, intending to go thither on business. The son handed to the girl a key, and requested her to go to a closet up stairs, and bring down a bottle of spirits, in order that his father might take some before going away. The girl took the key, and when just about leaving the room, the deceased's father presented the gun to his son's left side, and, melancholy to relate, fired it off, the contents penetrated his side, passing

through his body and coming out at his right side. He immediately fell down, sprang up again, rushed out of the room, and ran towards the barn, a few yards from the house. On reaching the barn door, he fell down. The barn man came out, and asked him what had befallen him? He said his father had shot him, but for what reason he could not tell. Others of the work people near at hand had collected around him to give him succour, and in the agonies of death he shook hands with them, and immediately expired. The deceased was a fine young man, just about twenty-four years of age, and was much esteemed and respected by all his acquaintance. The deceased's father had loaded the gun with a piece of brass to accomplish the horrid deed. He was committed under the coroner's warrant, to the county gaol at Morpeth, on a charge of wilfull murder; and at the Northumberland assizes, held at Newcastle, on the 8th of August, following, he was tried, and acquitted on the ground that he was insane at the time of committing the offence.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (May 29).—The ancient custom of singing on the steeple of the cathedral at Durham, on the anniversary of the above day, was revived at that church. At the close of divine service, the choristers ascended the steeple, and sung the three anthems formerly used on that elevated station.—*Ibid*.

June 5.—The "United Kingdom" steam packet, of 1,000 tons, came into the river Tyne for a supply of coals. This vessel, which was then the largest of the kind belonging to Great Britain, was on its passage from London to Leith.—*Ibid*.

June 11.—The farm-house at Snipe house, near Alnwick, occupied by Mr. John Marshall, was destroyed by fire, supposed to have been occasioned by a foul chimney.—*Ibid*.

June 11.—The northern Academy of Arts, which was commenced building in Blackett street, Newcastle, September 15th, 1827, was first opened to the public, with a very superior display of paintings by London, native, and other artists. There were also exhibited very splendid and costly models of St. Paul's, London, and St. Peter's, at Rome, the property of lady Ravensworth, who, for the gratification of the public, sent them from the museum at Ravensworth castle. This exhibition closed on the 13th of September. This building was again opened, October 6th, for the "Exhibition of pictures by the most celebrated, ancient, and deceased masters, selected from the best collections." The building, both exterior and interior, does great credit to the projectors. The first exhibition of drawings in water colours took place in this institution on the 31st October, 1831, presenting another display of superior talent.—*Ibid*.

1828 (June 11).—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone (at the entrance door) of the rectory-house, for the parish of St. John, Gateshead fell, was performed by the workmen. Refreshments were distributed to the persons present, and each was presented with a card containing the following inscription :—"The foundation stone of the building intended for the Rectory-house for the parish of St. John, Gateshead Fell, was laid this 11th of June, 1828, on which day the site was named and will ever afterwards be called Hawksbury Hill."—*Local Papers.*

June 20.—During a violent storm of thunder and lightning, Robert Turnbull, a married man, 32 years of age, servant to H. Dinning, esq. of Newlands, near Belford, Northumberland, while driving a cart of manure, was, together with the horses, struck instantly dead by the lightning. The unfortunate man's hat was rent to pieces, one of his temples, his breast, and the under side of one of his cheeks were a little blackened. There was no mark on either of the horses, nor did the cart, chains, or trapping receive any injury.—*Ibid.*

June 22.—Died, at Pelton, near Chester-le-street, Isabella Eddy, widow, in her 107th year.—*Ibid.*



June 25.—The common council of Newcastle, established a new corporate company, entitled "The Company or Fraternity of Scriveners of Newcastle upon Tyne," of which Nathaniel Clayton, Christopher Fenwick, Percival Fenwick, Armorer Donkin, John Adamson, Peregrine George Ellison, John Brown, John Clayton, Henry Ingle-dew, Robert Anthony Purvis, George William Cram, Thomas William Keenlyside, Thomas Dove, Matthew Clayton, Richard Hill Gee, Edward Hemsley and Ions Hewison (attorneys), free burgesses, were

declared members, and they were consequently enabled to bestow the freedom of the town upon their apprentices. The preceding wood-cut shews the arms of this new corporate company, by whose permission it is here inserted.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1828 (June 27).—Died, in the mill-entry, head of the Side, Newcastle, aged 103 years, Thomas Thompson, an old soldier, a native of Woodhorn, Northumberland. He was at the battle of Minden in 1759, where he had his skull fractured, and he wore a silver plate over the fracture to the day of his death. At the close of the war in the year 1763, he travelled over Europe, and part of Asia and Africa in the service of captain Younghusband. He afterwards supported himself by turning a wheel for a glass cutter in the Close, Newcastle, as long as there was employment in that line. On the visit of the duke of Wellington to Newcastle, a petition was presented to his grace on his behalf, stating his great age and services, and that his means of support had been materially affected by the loss of his two sons, one at the battle of Trafalgar, and the other under his grace at Waterloo. The effect of this petition was to obtain for him an enlargement of his pension to 1s. 8d. per day. But it had a still more beneficial effect in raising up for him a friend and protector in the person of Colonel Arnold, who having been employed to announce to the veteran the above piece of good fortune, took so kind an interest for him, as very materially added to his comfort during the remainder of his life.—*Ibid.*

June 30.—A new theatre was opened at Sunderland, when the justly celebrated songstress, Miss Hughes, from London, a native of Sunderland, made her first appearance there. She was received with the most rapturous applause, and was encored in all her songs. The house was crowded to excess.—*Ibid.*

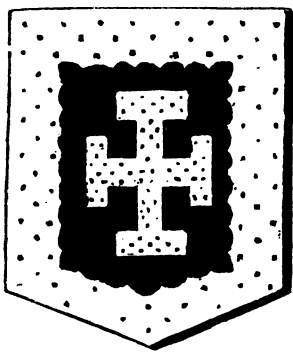
This month a sparrow built its nest upon the quarter block of the main yard of the ship Friends of North Shields, whilst lying in the river Tyne, and therein deposited several eggs.—*Ibid.*

July 2.—Wednesday evening, Mr. James Wright, the manager of the soap manufactory, in the Close, Newcastle, and thirty-two of the workmen, sat down to an entertainment in the interior of a newly erected soap copper. The healths of their employers, and other appropriate toasts were drunk with much applause, and the company did not separate till a late hour.—*Ibid.*

July 12 and 13.—Saturday and Sunday, there was a continuous, and often very heavy rain throughout the northern counties, which was followed with excessive floods, causing much loss and damage to the lands and crops on the low grounds and banks of the rivers. The Tyne rose to a great height, laying corn-fields waste, pikes

of hay were floated down, also live stock, consisting of sheep and pigs, and numerous geese and ducks were hurried away from their domiciles by the impetuosity of the current, and lost to their owners. Several trees were torn up by the roots, in the fullness of their summer foliage, and floated down the stream. The vast accumulation of water that rushed from the high lands in the county of Durham, overflowed the river Team, and a great number of the fields on each side were inundated, the whole presenting the appearance of an extensive lake. Considerable damage was sustained, as much new-made hay was carried off by the force of the water. The houses in Dunston and its vicinity were completely surrounded by the water, and the inhabitants had no means of escaping except by boats. Here also a number of keels, and small craft, were driven from their moorings. The gable end of Mr. Harrison's paper mill, erecting at the west end of Pipewellgate, Gateshead, was thrown down by the water running into the building, and bursting away the foundation. The river Darwent rose higher by several feet than the eldest people in the vicinity could remember, and rushed down its woody dells with great impetuosity, and the broad and shelving rocks that in many places form its bed, foamed with surge, as the vast body of water flowed through the numerous windings of that romantic stream into the Tyne. Most of the wooden bridges upon this river were carried away, and the damage done at the paper-mill at Shotley Grove, was very great. The whole of the dam head and apron, together with great part of a new quay, for the erection of another mill, being swept away. A water-spout fell at the foot of the bank near Hamsterley lodge, and did great damage to the road. The low lands adjacent to the river Wear, were for a long time under water, so that fine crops of every description were completely destroyed. A vast quantity of hay in pikes passed down the river. At Sunderland a ship was driven from Hetton-staith to the low part of the harbour, and some keels were driven from their moorings out to sea. At an early hour on the Monday morning (14th), a fine large black horse was taken out of the river dead, at the glass-house quay of Addison Fenwick, esq. It had the shafts and harness of a gig attached to it, but the body of the carriage was not found. On Sunday the (13th), as Mr. Cook, blacksmith at Nesham colliery, his brother-in-law, and their wives, were proceeding home from Newcastle, in a cart, the river having overflowed, had extended into the lane near the new bridge, at Lambton park. In attempting to turn back, the horse, being nearly overhead in water, stumbled, and was immediately drowned. After Mr. Cook and his friends had called out a long time, some persons walking to see the river, went to their assistance, and ropes were

procured. Several persons attempted to swim to them with ropes, but were unable to come near them, the water being several feet deep in the lane, and coming very rapidly down the new bridge field. Mr. Storey, of Picktree, sent a horse and sledge to Lambton, to bring a boat to the new bridge, when John Ferguson, boatman (a sailor), John Briggs, gamekeeper, at Lambton, and Joseph Laverick, formerly of Lumley ferry-boat, proceeded in the Lambton boat, to rescue them from their perilous situation, having ropes made fast to the boat. The ropes were thrown to the people to make fast to the trees, whither they had swam, to render all the assistance in their power to the unfortunate persons, as the water had risen, and they were standing in the cart up to their shoulders. After three of them were removed from the cart, it was carried away by the stream, and the other man jumped into the water and caught hold of a rope that was thrown from the boat. As they were dragging him to the boat the rope broke that was tied to the tree, and the boat was taken by the strong current over the tops of the trees, and every person thought it would upset, but Ferguson by his skill brought the boat ashore in the plantation belonging to lord Durham, near Mickleton, to the surprise of a great number who had assembled. They had been in their perilous situation about four hours. A great number of leverets were observed clinging to the pikes of hay as they floated down the Wear. Same day, a valuable cart mare belonging to Mr. Thomas Wailes, of Meldon, was carried down the river Wansbeck, and drowned. By some means she had backed the cart into the swollen torrent, and was hurried away by the stream. Incalculable damage was done by this visitation, but it was not ascertained that any human lives were lost.—*Local Papers.*



1828 (July 21).—Died, George Allan, of Blackwell Grange, esq. M.A., F. A. S., a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county of Durham, only surviving son of George Allan, of Blackwell Grange, esq. an eminent antiquary and collector, and descended from an ancient and respectable family. He was elected representative for the city of Durham in 1813, and was a candidate at the next election, but declined a poll, though it was confidently asserted, that if he had persevered in his intentions, he would have been again returned, but the heavy pecuniary sacrifices of the first election, did not warrant his perseverance in a second contest, and he manfully declared his "inability to command such pecuniary resour-

ces as would be necessary to secure his election." When this determination was communicated to the freemen, it was received with sentiments of universal regret, highly honourable to all parties. He immediately afterwards, retired to France, and lived at St. Omers for several years greatly respected. He died, after a short but severe illness, in the 60th year of his age. His remains were interred in the family vault, at Darlington.—*Sharp's Burg. of Dur., &c.*

1828 (July 23).—In the afternoon, the inhabitants of Hexham experienced such a deluge in the low part of the town, called Cockshaw, and Giles place, as never occurred in the memory of the eldest inhabitant. After a tremendous shower of rain, the two rivulets which run in that quarter, became instantaneously swollen to an alarming height, and overflowed a considerable extent from their regular channels. It was a fortunate circumstance that it happened at the hour it did; had it taken place during the night, much more damage might have been sustained, and perhaps attended with the loss of lives. Great injury was done to the tanneries and gardens by being completely inundated. A great quantity of rain also fell at Durham, and did great injury to the hay, not only in pike, but also that which had been stacked, as the water penetrated to a surprising depth.—*Local Papers.*



ENTRANCE TO MORPETH OLD BRIDGE, FROM THE NORTH.

July 23.—As the Wonder coach, on its return from Alnwick to Newcastle, was passing along the bridge at Morpeth, it was met by some carts, which caused delay, and one of the horses eager to get on, began to plunge, and drew the coach against one of the guard stones on the east side; on which the wheel rising, threw the coach upon the battlement of the opposite side. Part of the battlement was

knocked down, and three of the outside passengers, two men and one woman, trunks, coats, &c. were thrown over into the water. One of the passengers, Mr. Elliott, jun. of Newcastle, whitesmith, had a very narrow escape from drowning. Great praise is due to Mr. Joseph Thew, currier, John Stephenson, and Joseph Hedley, for their exertions in rescuing the passengers from the water. Doubts were entertained at one time for the safety of Mr. Thew and Mr. Elliott, who caught Thew by the legs, and kept him under water for some time; but by the assistance of Stephenson, they were rescued from their perilous situation, and fortunately no serious injury was sustained. Mr. Thew had only time to throw off his coat and silk neckcloth, before he plunged into the river, to endeavour to save the lives of the unfortunate travellers, during which some miscreant purloined the latter. Mr. Elliott reached Newcastle the same evening in a gig. Scott, the driver of the Wonder, had a narrow escape, and it was owing to the firmness with which he held the reins, that he was not precipitated over the bridge. Had the accident occurred on the preceding day, great doubts might have been entertained that any would have been saved, as the Wansbeck was much swollen by the heavy rain. A few weeks after this accident, through the benevolent influence of his grace the duke of Northumberland, the Royal Humane Society of London, of which his grace is president, remitted to the rev. Frederic Ekins, rector of Morpeth, the sum of ten pounds, with a request that it should be divided in the following manner:—To Joseph Hedley, 5*l.*; to Joseph Thew, 3*l.*; and to John Stevenson, 2*l.* There was also a subscription of nearly 40*l.* for the same object, to which his grace was a liberal contributor. The donation from the Royal Society was accompanied with a letter, feelingly expressive and complimentary to the persons who had so promptly and readily risked their own lives for the safety of others.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (July 27).—Died, at Warkworth, in Northumberland, aged 100 years, Mrs. Ann Taylor, widow of Mr. Cuthbert Taylor, of Tanfield, Durham.—*Ibid.*

July.—In removing the old battlements of Framwellgate-bridge, in the city of Durham, a large living toad was found in the very middle of the wall where it must have been confined for a number of years. The bridge was built by bishop Flambard in the year 1120, but when the battlement containing the animal was built, was not known.—*Ibid.*

This month, died, in London, suddenly, Mr. Thomas Fryer Ranson, an engraver of considerable eminence. Mr. Ranson was born at Sunderland, in the year 1784, but his parents shortly after removed to Newcastle, where he was bound apprentice to Mr. J. A. Kidd, engraver. After completing his apprenticeship he remained in New-

castle a few years, during which he executed several pieces with great taste and delicacy. He then removed to London, and soon became distinguished, and in the year 1814 received from the Society of Arts a silver medal, for the engraving of a portrait, supposed to be that of sir Thomas Gresham. On the 15th of April, 1818, he sent to the Society of Arts the copy of a new bank note, exhibiting specimens of the highest excellence in the graphic art. The vignette in the centre, etched and engraved by himself, from a drawing by Thurston, is a most beautiful production of art. Messrs. Archer and Turrell also contributed their skill, and the writing is well executed by Mr. Lambert, of Newcastle, engraver. This plate, and Mr. Ranson's letters were afterwards published by the Society of Arts. In June, this year, Mr. Ranson, published "An interior view of Coldbath-fields prison, in which Thomas Ranson was unlawfully confined by the Bank of England, for holding an alleged forged One Pound Note (that he paid forty shillings for), which was proved to be genuine in a Court of Justice. Dedicated, without permission, to the Govr. and Company of the Threadneedle-street paper establishment." He contended that the bank had no right to impound notes the property of others, and that the inspectors could not always distinguish between a forged and a genuine note. The question was decided in his favour, and he received much merited praise for his noble stand against an illegal assumption of power by the bank. In the year 1821, he received, from the Society of Arts, the gold Isis medal, for his portrait of the late duke of Northumberland, an engraving in the line manner, which has seldom been equalled; and, in May, the following year, he again received the gold Isis medal from the same society, for an engraving of Wilkie's "Duncan Gray."—*Local Papers*.

1828 (July).—This month, when two men were mowing a field belonging to Mr. James Dixon, at High Collierly, in the parish of Lanchester, Durham, they found a partridge with six chickens, apparently three weeks old, which this foster mother was nursing? It was supposed she had found a hen's nest and sat upon the eggs.—*Ibid*.

August 3.—A new church was opened for divine worship at Redcar, in the county of Durham. Service commenced at half-past 10 in the morning, by the rev. L. Vernon, rector of Stokesley, who did the whole of the duty in the morning, and likewise preached in the afternoon. After service, a collection was made each time, in aid of the fund, which amounted to £73. 1s. 8d.—*Ibid*.

August.—Workmen were at this time employed in building a bridge at the Link-house, near Blyth, the expense of which to be defrayed by private subscriptions.—*Ibid*.

1828 (Aug. 9).—An anonymous letter of which the following is a copy, was received by sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., M. P., who gave the money to the dispensary of Newcastle.

“*Newcastle, Aug. 9, 1828.*”

“Sir,—I swindled your late father out of £3. 3s. about thirty years since. I am extremely sorry for what I did; I have enclosed the amount. May the Lord bless you, dear Sir, and all your family, is the prayer of your obedient servant.”—*Local Papers.*

August 14.—About five o'clock on the morning an alarming fire was discovered in the premises of Mr. Musgrave, mustard manufacturer in Stockton, which burnt for a considerable time with great fury. The roofs of the building soon fell in, but from the great exertions made, and a good supply of water, it was fortunately got under about eight o'clock.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—As Ralph Pyle and James Cram were descending the pit at Benwell, the rope unfortunately broke, by which they were precipitated to the bottom, and killed on the spot.—*Ibid.*

August 23.—In conformity to a new act for regulating the town of North Shields, watchmen were appointed, and put on duty for the first time, on the night of the above day, Saturday.—*Ibid.*

Septem. 1.—An explosion took place in the new pit at Houghton-le-spring, belonging to lord Durham, when three men and four boys were burnt to death. The accident was attributed to the sufferers themselves having incautiously left open a door in the mine on the Saturday. The foul air had by this means accumulated in the workings, and on the return of the pitmen on the morning with their lights, it immediately exploded and occasioned the fatal result.—*Ibid.*

September 1.—Peter Macmillan undertook to walk 110 miles in 24 successive hours, on a half-mile piece of ground near the race course, Newcastle. He commenced his arduous undertaking at five o'clock in the afternoon, and completed in within the limited time. On the 15th Mary Macmillan, his mother, aged 64 years, undertook to walk 92 miles in 24 successive hours, on the race course, which she also completed. Numbers attended to witness these pedestrian feats.—*Ibid.*

September 7.—The new chapel built at Brandling place, near Newcastle, was opened for the use of the Wesleyan Methodists, on which occasion sermons were preached by the rev. Francis A. West, and the rev. William Naylor, to crowded audiences.—*Ibid.*

September 9.—When the sloop Hunter of Arbroath was loaded with coal, and waiting the tide in the Tyne, two of the men went down into the fore-castle with a lighted candle, previous to sailing;

when on a sudden an explosion took place, in consequence of foul air brought on board with the coals, by which the two men were severely scorched.—*Local Papers*.

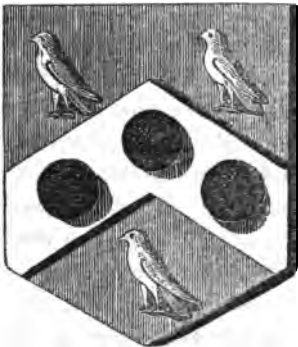
1828 (Sep. 9).—A part of the east wing of the ancient cathedral of Hexham, now used as the parish church, fell with a tremendous crash, and broke through the roof of the building adjoining, called the old school, in which were deposited the town lamps, all of which were demolished.—*Gent's Mag.*



OLD TOWER, MARKET-PLACE, HEXHAM (1836).

September 9.—The new church of St. Paul, at Winlaton, in the parish of Ryton, Durham, was opened. The lord bishop of Durham arrived at Axwell park, the preceding day, where he remained during the night, and, at eleven o'clock the next morning his lordship arrived at the school-house, Winlaton, and was joined there by sir Thomas Clavering bart., C. J. Clavering, esq., and the principal inhabitants of the parish, all of whom carried white wands. The company went in procession, preceded by the Winlaton band of music, to the church (though the morning had been very wet and stormy), which was filled with a very respectable congregation. On the bishop arriving at the church, he was met at the west door by the rev. Charles Thorp, rector of Ryton; the rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle; the rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead; the rev. Mr. Collinson, of Lamesley, and several other clergymen. The usual

petition was presented to the bishop praying that he would consecrate the church, and, after being read by the registrar, the procession moved to the vestry, where the bishop enrobed himself. The "Morning hymn" was sung by a choir, accompanied by the band; after which the ceremony commenced with the procession moving up the middle aisle from the west door to the communion table, the bishop and the clergy repeating alternately verses from the 24th Psalm. His lordship and his two chaplains then stepped within the rails of the altar; when the usual prayers were read. The procession then proceeded to the church-yard, where the act of consecrating the burial-ground was read by the rev. Mr. Baker, the chancellor, and signed by his lordship, who offered up a suitable prayer, and again returned to the altar; the chancellor then read the sentence for the consecration of the church, and it being signed by his lordship, was laid upon the communion table. The service of the day was then delivered by the reverends Henry Wardell and John Reed (the latter being appointed curate), and an excellent and pathetic sermon was preached by his lordship, from Psalm 26th, verse 8th—"Lord I have loved the habitation and the place where thy honour dwelleth." The choir then sung with great effect "Lord dismiss us," &c. His lordship then read a suitable prayer, and concluded with the apostolic blessing. After the ceremony, his lordship, the clergy, &c., partook of a cold collation at the house of Mr. Belt, after which his lordship, the clergy, &c., drove off to the rectory-house at Ryton, and honoured the rev. Mr. Thorp, with his presence to dinner. Mr. Belt presented to the church a peal of five bells, which were rung at intervals during the day. The tenor bell which weighs 10 cwt. bears the following inscription on the front:—"This peal of five bells was presented to the church of St. Paul, by Robert Belt, esq., Winlaton, Anno Dom. 1828." and on the reverse—"Charles Thorp, B. D., rector of Ryton; Henry Wardell, M. A., John Reed, B. A., curates; Robert Watson, Newcastle Tyne, founder."—*Local Papers*.



1828 (Sep. 9).—This being the day on which sir M. W. Ridley, bart., attained his 21st year, all the bells in the churches of Newcastle, rung several merry peals on the occasion. The day was celebrated with much festivity and rejoicing at Blagdon, and other places in the vicinity of the honourable baronet's domain. At Blyth all business was suspended, and the gentlemen of the place and its neighbourhood, with the masters of the ships

in the harbour dined together in celebration of the event. All the workmen at Cowpen colliery and Blyth, employed under sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., were liberally regaled, and the sailors belonging to the ships in the harbour were not forgotten. Such a festive day had not taken place at Blyth since April 18th, 1799, when the worthy baronet's father attained his 21st year.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Sep. 15).—Died, at Hedley, near Beamish, in the county of Durham, Mr. Matthew Pratt, formerly a farmer at Urpeth, who had completed his 100th year on the 9th of the preceding June.—*Ibid.*

September 16.—At night, a most distressing accident occurred at Bishopwearmouth. Mr. William Hunter, land-agent to William Russell, esq., M. P. of Brancepath castle, was attending on business, at the Bridge inn, and retired to rest in good health; but, dreadful to relate, in the middle of the night he arose in his sleep, opened the chamber window, and walked out, when he was precipitated to the ground, a height of three stories, which caused almost instantaneous death.—*Ibid.*

September.—A part of the Town Hall at Hartlepool having been fitted up as a theatre. One evening about the middle of this month, the performances were under the patronage of the marquis of Cleveland and family, who were present. During the performance a part of the timber of the gallery gave way, to the great alarm of the audience, who rushed into the street *en masse*. Several persons were much bruised, and the whole audience terribly frightened, but no lives were lost.—*Ibid.*

September 18.—In the evening, as a gentleman was driving his carriage down the hill near Walbottle, on his way from Newcastle to Hexham, the vehicle ran amain, and was precipitated over the bridge at the foot of the bank. The height from the bridge to the dean below is nearly thirty feet, and, wonderful as it may seem, the horse was only slightly hurt, and the driver merely stunned. The carriage, which was considerably damaged, was new, and had just come from London, by the steam-packet, to Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

September 27.—Saturday, on old man, on his way to Newcastle, was attacked by a furious cow, grazing on the Haughs near the Herd's House, on the Elswick estate, and gored in a serious manner. A boat, in which were several persons, was passing up the river at the time, but before it could reach the shore, a person with an umbrella, attracted the attention of the furious animal, and thus saved the life of the old man. He was conveyed to a neighbouring house in a state of complete exhaustion.—*Ibid.*

September 29.—A luminous arch appeared stretched across the

heavens in a direction nearly N. E. and S. W. It was first seen about seven in the evening issuing from dark clouds near the horizon, quite across the zenith, where it intersected the Milky Way to the opposite horizon. Its width continued uniform for some time, being about 3°. The greater part of the sky was clear, and thickly studded with stars, which were quite visible through the arch. It remained perfectly steady for some time, and then assumed the fleeting shadowy nature of the Aurora Borealis. The light in the northern horizon, which had hitherto not been remarkable, suddenly brightened into a most vivid and sublime exhibition of the Aurora—the brilliant streamers of which extended nearly to the zenith, and frequently covered, without obscuring, the stars of the constellation of the Great Bear. The arch, which had disappeared, again became visible, extending in a direction parallel to its former one, but much further south, of considerably less altitude, and very obscure, resembling a reflection, or rainbow of the Aurora. The preceding day was windy with several heavy showers. The evening, during the above appearances, was fair, and several flying stars shot across the heavens during their continuance; the air rather frosty, and a strong wind blew from the W. or N. W. The atmosphere had been close and warm for some days before, and the barometer had a sudden and considerable depression a short time previous to these appearances.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Sep. 29).—A new post coach commenced running between Penrith and Hexham, being the first public conveyance that had traversed the extensive mining district of Alston moor, and the beautiful and romantic scenery adjoining the mountainous ridge in which it is situated, thus affording great facilities for visiting the lead mines, and opening out an entirely new line of communication across the kingdom, no less advantageous to commercial travellers than interesting to men of science, to whom a large field of observation, especially in mineralogy and geology, is rendered easily accessible, while in this ride, the tourist in search of the “picturesque” will be gratified with an extent and variety of scenery unequalled in the north of England, and little, if at all inferior to the far-famed and often-sung romantic beauties of the Scottish border. The road traverses, for several miles, the elevated and dreary moors, among which the rivers Tyne, Tees, and Wear have their source, and in which are situated the valuable mining districts, for which this part of the country is celebrated. After leaving Alston, a town containing nearly two thousand inhabitants, and said to be the highest market town in England, the road ascends by a raised mound to Lowbyer inn, and thence continues along a fine terrace, commanding a beautiful view

of the vale of South Tyne, with the mountain of Crossfell, on the southern, and the bold elevations of the Penine chain on the western horizon. On the opposite banks may be seen the extensive remains of the Roman Station at Whitley. On gaining the summit of Whitfield-fell, a fine view over the county of Northumberland is afforded, terminated by the hills of Cheviot, Hedgehope, and Simonside, and by the German ocean. An interesting prospect is then had of the vales of West Allen and Whitfield: the road passes through the latter by a vista of highly-romantic scenery, in a well-wooded and narrow vale, beautifully situated, in which is the mansion-house of William Ord, esq., M. P.; its vicinity richly adorned with luxuriant foliage. The extremity of the vale is formed by a nearly perpendicular scar of great height, rising immediately from the eastern banks of the united streams of East and West Allen, over which is a handsome stone bridge of three arches. The formidable ascent of Cupola Bank is effected by a road gradually rising up the face of the steep, and turning by very acute angles; in about half a mile, it gains the summit, and passes near the verge of this tremendous precipice, from whence the vale of Whitfield again appears to great advantage, but is far surpassed when, continuing a little further eastward, the romantic and precipitous banks of the Allen, nearly covered with wood, are gradually unfolded to the view—receding in beautiful perspective, while the rocky bed of the river, at an immense and nearly perpendicular depth below, and the ruins of Staward le peel above, form a scene which never fails to excite the liveliest admiration. The



STAWARD FARM HOUSE,

In which Lord Derwentwater slept, on the last night he passed in Northumberland.

road then continues past the extensive smelt-mills belonging to Greenwich Hospital, and thence through a narrow and woody glen, in which the majestic ruins of Langley castle, suddenly burst on the view, to Hayden Bridge, where it joins the road from Carlisle to Hexham.—*Local Papers.*



1828 (Oct. 3).—Died, at his residence in Portsmouth dockyard, after a long and painful illness, aged nearly 61, the honourable sir George Grey, bart., K.C.B., captain in the Royal Navy, resident commissioner of Portsmouth dock-yard, marshal of the Vice-Admiralty court at Barbadoes; an alderman of Portsmouth, vice-president of the Naval and Military Bible Society, &c., and younger brother of earl Grey. He was born October 10, 1767, the fourth but third surviving son of Gen. Charles the first earl Grey, by Elizabeth, daughter of Geo. Grey, esq., of Southwick in the county of Durham. Sir George was a lieutenant of the *Resolution* in Rodney's action in 1782; in 1793 he obtained post rank in the *Boyne*, bearing the flag of sir John Jervis, with whom he served during the West India campaign, and commanded that ship when she was accidentally burnt at Spithead. At the siege of Guadaloupe, he commanded a detachment of 500 seamen and marines, landed to co-operate with the army. Sir George subsequently commanded the *Glory*, 98 guns, forming part of the Channel fleet; and in the following year, the *Victory*, bearing sir John Jervis's flag, with whom he continued during the whole period that officer held the command on the Mediterranean station. He consequently assisted at the defeat of the Spanish fleet, off Cape St. Vincent, in 1797. On earl St. Vincent hoisting his flag, in 1800, on board the *Ville de Paris*, as commander-in-chief of the Channel fleet, sir George took the command of that ship. In 1801 he was appointed to one of the yachts in attendance on the royal family at Weymouth, and continued in that service till 1804, when he succeeded sir Isaac Coffin as commissioner of Sheerness dock yard, from whence he removed to Portsmouth. In 1814, George IV. (then on a visit to the fleet at Spithead, in company with the allied sovereigns,) presented him with the patent of a baronetcy, and in 1820, with the order of K. C. B. Sir George Grey married, in July 1795, Mary, daughter of Sam. Whitbread, esq., by lady Mary Cornwallis, and sister to the late Sam. Whitbread, esq., M.P. for Bedford, who had in 1788 married sir George's eldest sister lady Elizabeth Grey. By this lady, who survived him, sir George had issue six daughters and

three sons. He is succeeded in his title by his eldest son, now sir George Grey, bart.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1828 (Oct. 5).—Sunday, at night, a rick of hay belonging to P. Corker of Barnardcastle, was maliciously set on fire, and threatened destruction to two other ricks adjoining, belonging to baron Hullock. The fire was got under by great exertions, and some part of the stock was saved. Baron Hullock generously gave the sufferer ten pounds.—*Local Papers.*

October 6.—As Mr. Gray, of Southwick, near Sunderland, was crossing the Wear, at the Ford, near Chester-le-street, in a gig, (the Wear at the time rising from the rain that had fallen on the preceding Sunday night), he succeeded in getting on shore, but the horse and gig were carried away, and found that evening in the river, near the race-ground at Lambton, about a mile from the ford.—*Ibid.*

October 9.—His grace the duke of Northumberland reviewed on Newcastle town moor, the Northumberland and Newcastle Yeomanry Cavalry, mounted and dismounted, who were then on duty in that town, under the command of lieut. col. Bell, M. P. His grace was dressed in a general's uniform, and the regiment performed before him, in excellent stile, all the manœuvres of a grand field day, and were rewarded with his grace's approbation. The day was fine, and there was an immense assemblage of spectators upon the ground.—*Ibid.*

October 11.—A new two-horse coach, called the "Adventure," commenced running between Newcastle and Bedlington.—*Ibid.*

October 16.—A most splendid entertainment was given by the hon. H. T. Liddell, M. P., and Mrs. Liddell, at their seat at Eslington house, Northumberland, to celebrate the baptism of their youngest daughter. At half-past five o'clock, P.M., the ceremony was performed by the rev. H. G. Liddell, in the presence of a select party of relatives and friends. Her grace the duchess of Northumberland, Miss Seymour, and the hon. Mrs. Dawson, were the sponsors. A beautiful china font was presented for the occasion by her grace, and the infant was named Florentia, from her grace's second name. After the ceremony, the distinguished party sat down to a sumptuous dinner at 6 o'clock. At half-past nine o'clock, the ball company began to arrive, and the elegant ball-room was thrown open to the admiring assemblage. The ball was opened by the hon. Mr. Liddell, and her grace the duchess of Northumberland, and the dancing was kept up with great spirit till one o'clock, when the company retired to a splendid and elegant supper. The health of the lord lieutenant of the county, and of her grace, was proposed in a neat and appropriate manner, by the hon. Mr. Liddell, and was drunk with long and

loud applause, after which the healths of the honourable host and hostess were proposed in a most gratifying manner by his grace, and loud cheers accompanied this toast. The healths of the distinguished sponsors were then proposed by Mr. Liddell, and received with great applause. The healths of lord and lady Ravensworth and family, were given and drunk with great enthusiasm. The company then returned to the ball room, and a varied succession of waltzes, quadrilles, and other dances, were continued until the dawn of the morning warned the happy party of the necessity of quitting the scene of festivity. The ball-room was most tastefully decorated with wreaths of flowers and evergreens, beautifully arranged in various devices; and the name bestowed by her grace the duchess of Northumberland, upon the young christian, was distinctly seen at the head of the room in large gold letters, intermixed with moss and flowers; and on the side of the room were seen the initials of the duke and duchess, with their respective coronets, most skillfully executed by Mr. Athey, of Alnwick. There were about 150 persons present upon this occasion, comprising several of the most distinguished families in the county.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Oct.)—This month, as Joseph Forster, of Lumley, was proceeding along the Wear side, near Finchale abbey, on his road to Nesham, a stone, about a ton weight, was put over the bank by some men working above the road: it fell upon him, and killed him upon the spot.—*Ibid.*



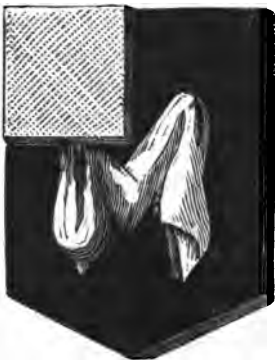
FINCHALE ABBEY (1835).

CHAPTER XVII.



LEASE of the coal under a certain part of the Town Moor, Newcastle, having some years previously been granted by the corporation of that town, to the rev. Ralph Henry Brandling (who possessed the adjoining land) and Mr. Jobling the sub-lessee having broken the ground at a stone quarry on the west side of the barracks, where he opened a pit, constructed a railway, and erected a staith or place of deposit. About the middle of October, 1828, the stewards of the incorporated companies, who had long been aware of these proceedings, and contended that they were without right, bestirred themselves, and on the 27th of the same month appointed a deputation to inspect the lease. On the 31st a meeting of the stewards was held, when the deputation reported, that the Town clerk had informed them, that, by a lease granted to Mr. Brandling, in 1825, of the Town moor coal, no power was given to break the surface of any part thereof; but that an additional lease had been agreed on by the common council, giving Mr. Brandling power to break the surface, at or near the quarry, to work and bring to bank coals there, got from the moor, and also got from any adjoining lands or collieries, such additional grant being made without any compensation. The company met, and on the 7th of November the stewards assembled, and found that twenty two of the companies opposed and two favoured the working of the coal. The companies determined to support legal proceedings and recommended that the opinion of Mr. Edward H. Alderson, a celebrated counsel be obtained. On the 28th November the stewards met and read Mr. Alderson's opinion, who contended that the right of the corporation to grant the lease must fail unless they could prove that such acts had before been done and submitted to. That the fact of the

coals being hitherto worked by outstrokes, was in favour of the freemen. That the right to work stone does not imply the right to work coals, and that it was possible to restore the land to grass after the working of the former, but not after the latter, thereby shewing that the case in question was prejudicial to the rights of the freemen. That, (in conclusion) if any of the acts done by Mr. Brandling were prejudicial to the herbage, or if there was a deficiency after these acts were done, any one of the burgesses, entitled to a right of common by act of 14th Geo. III. might try the question in an action on the case. On the 29th November, the secretary gave notice to Mr. Brandling that if all the erections &c. at the coal mine were not immediately removed that the same would be prostrated by the stewards. This order having been disregarded the report of the opinion of the companies was received at a meeting of the stewards on the 4th of December, when twenty-one of the companies determined to level and fill up the quarry, remove all erections, and to support legal proceedings if necessary. Two companies dissented and, one sent no opinion. It was then resolved that the stewards should meet on the next day to carry these resolutions into effect. At ten o'clock on the morning of Friday the 5th of December the stewards met at the colliery, a duplicate of the notice to Mr. Brandling having been read and the same appearing not to have been complied with, the stewards displaced the railways, laid off the workings, removed the door at the mouth of the shaft, demolished the staith, and razed every other erection. They then gave notice to the under viewer and to other persons present that one week would be allowed for the removal of the materials, and after that period, the pit would be filled up and the surface restored to its original level. On the same day a handbill was issued intimating that the pit and other excavations were open as a deposit for rubbish. No action followed these proceedings.—*Minutes of the Body of Stewards, &c.*



1828 (Oct. 21).—Died, in Grafton-street, London, Richard Wharton, esq. F. R. S. of Old Park, in the county of Durham. He was the third son of Thomas Wharton, of Old Park, M. D.; was a barrister-at-law; and was elected M. P. for the city of Durham, 1802–6, 1807–12. He was some time chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; and afterwards joint secretary of the Treasury. He was the author of “Observations on the Authenticity of Bruce’s Travels in Abyssinia,” 1800, 4to.; “Fables from the Italian Poets,”

1805, two vols. 8vo.; "Remarks on the Jacobinical tendency of the Edinburgh Review," 1809, 8vo.; "Roncesvalles," a Poem, dedicated to the princes Elizabeth, 1812, 4to. He married, June 7, 1792, Henrietta, daughter of — Farrer, of Lincoln's Inn, esq.—*Gent's Mag.*

1828 (Oct. 23).—Soon after six o'clock in the morning, a respectable young woman went from Ryhope into a field near the sea shore, and on her opening the field gate to return, she was prevented by a man dressed in a blue jacket and trowsers, in consequence of which she fled to the sea shore, and ran along it towards Ryhope Dean; but before she had reached the latter place, she was overtaken by the man, who ultimately threw her into the sea and left her. The girl managed to escape from drowning, and reached her home about eight o'clock, but in such a nervous state, that she was unable or unwilling to relate the particulars of the affair. She subsequently manifested symptoms of a disordered mind, and attempted self-destruction.—*Local Papers.*

October 24.—His royal highness the duke of Sussex, passed through Newcastle, on a visit to earl Grey, at Howick, and returned to the south on the 27th. His royal highness had for some time previous been at Raby castle, the hospitable mansion of the marquis of Cleveland; where lord Durham, Mr. Brougham, and a distinguished party had been invited to meet his royal highness. October 14th, his royal highness made a short tour through the country; passing over Winston bridge, he proceeded by Thorpe to Greta bridge, where he partook of refreshment at Martin's new inn; from thence crossing the Abbey bridge, they returned to Raby castle through Barnardcastle. His royal highness was highly gratified with his excursion through that beautiful neighbourhood. He was invited to Brancepath castle, the seat of William Russel, esq., M. P., but this he declined on account of the death of his sister the queen of Wirtemberg.—*Ibid.*

October 24.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Durham, and its neighbourhood was held at the Town-hall in that city, for the purpose of taking into consideration a plan for the improvement of the great North Road, between Framwellgate Toll Bar, and the north end of Framwellgate bridge. The meeting, which was most respectable, was addressed by Dr. Fenwick, who stated that a plan was in contemplation to change the line of the great North road, so as to avoid the city of Durham altogether. It was intended that the road should turn off a short distance from the city, and go across the country by Durham Moor Houses and Neville's cross, to Farewell hall, a measure which, if carried into effect, would greatly deteriorate the value of property, and do incalculable injury to the city of Durham; and, therefore, it was the duty of the inhabitants to look to their own interests, and by

making such improvements in the present road as were practicable, hold out an inducement for the continuance of the road through the city. F. D. Johnson, esq. of Aykley Heads, who addressed the meeting, stated that he had met with no opposition from the proprietors of the property through which the intended road would pass; but that, on the contrary, Thomas Wilkinson, esq. and W. L. Wharton, esq. had liberally given a portion of their fields through which the road would go. Resolutions were passed deprecating the intended road by Durham Moor Houses; and approving of the plan submitted to the meeting, for removing the houses at the north end of Framwellgate bridge, and carrying a road across, to re-join the North road again a short distance from the Toll Bar. W. L. Wharton, esq. and F. D. Johnson, esq., were appointed to present a memorial to the Trustees of the Durham and Tyne bridge road on the following Tuesday. The plan recommended by the meeting was finally adopted by the trustees and constables one of the greatest improvements ever effected in the district.—*Local Papers.*



FRAMWELLGATE BRIDGE, DURHAM (1836).

1828 (Oct. 27).—The post office, in Newcastle, was removed from Mosley street to St. Nicholas' church-yard, a situation generally complained of, but on the 21st of August 1832, it was removed to the royal Arcade in Pilgrim street, a more desirable, though still ineligible and inconvenient situation, considering the greatly altered and improved state of the town.—*Ibid.*

October 29.—A singular phenomena was exhibited at the Cow-hill fair, Newcastle, viz., a blood mare called Pincushion, with seven legs, three of which did not appear till she was three years of age, and

after she had won two races. An eighth leg was forming at the above period.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Oct. 30).—The ancient chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, Tyne-bridge-end, Newcastle, was opened for a week-day lecture. A very interesting and impressive sermon was preached on the occasion, by the rev. J. Taylor, lecturer of St. John's in that town, to a very respectable congregation.—*Ibid.*



PART OF THE CRYPT OF THE OLD CHAPEL OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET,
SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE (1826).

At the general quarter sessions of the peace for Newcastle upon Tyne, held this month, six pilots, some of them respectable men in their line of life, and all of South Shields, pleaded guilty to an indictment for a riot and assault upon the river Tyne. The case was this—On the 31st July preceeding, Mr. John Renwick, the master and owner of the Elizabeth steam-boat, was about to tow a vessel out of Shields harbour to sea, and the pilots having for some time felt that this mode of getting vessels out to sea interfered with their occupation, came to

the unlawful determination of putting a stop to it by force, and accordingly they assembled in their boats upon the river, to the number of fifty or sixty men, and having previously provided themselves with stones, they followed the steam-boat as she was towing the ship down the river, and pelted the people on board with stones, to the imminent danger of their lives; and one man at the helm, named James Black, was knocked down, and laid as if dead for some time. Mr. John Renwick, being a cool determined man, would not be beaten from his purpose, and he persevered in getting the ship out to sea. The defendants having expressed great contrition, the recorder, after giving them a very suitable admonition, sentenced them to pay a fine of one shilling each, and costs; to enter into their own recognizances in £40. each for keeping the peace for six months, and to pay the damage done to the boat.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Oct).—A cast of the Milo of Lough was received by the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, and is now in their library. This noble piece of art is a present from the sculptor himself, who can hardly receive adequate thanks for such a valuable mark of his liberality. The statue is a standing figure, which, with the pedestal, reaches to about the height of 14 feet. Milo attempted in his old age to tear up a tree by the roots, and to break it to pieces; but his hands or arms becoming entangled in a cleft which he could not open, he was torn to pieces by wild beasts. In this piece of sculpture, one arm of Milo is in the cleft, a wolf is at the throat of the figure, and the other hand is reaching behind with a sort of mistaken instinct of intolerable agony, as if to seize the wolf in that direction, or as if the hand was almost unconsciously directed to the part where the devouring animal inflicted greatest pain. The breast and back of the figure form one of the finest muscular displays of modern statuary. The countenance is minutely expressive of what may be conceived to be the feelings of such a moment, but it hardly bears the appearance of sufficient age. The backdrawn hand and arm resemble the congelation, or the *enstoning*, if one may use the word in reference to the original statue, of life itself. It may not be uninteresting to mention, that Mr. Lough is the son of a small farmer in Northumberland, from whence he was taken, at a very early age, to Low Muggleswick, near Stanhope, in Durham, where he distinguished himself, among his playmates by his skill in forming small clay models of the figures of men and animals. These attracted the attention of the clergyman of the village, by whom he was encouraged to proceed. Lough was apprenticed to a stone mason, and first evinced his skill and taste in the execution of a monument in Allendale church. He afterwards removed to Newcastle, where he worked at his trade for

some time, unnoticed and unknown; but all his spare hours were devoted to the art of modelling in clay. At length he conceived the bold idea of executing the above colossal work, which he accomplished at his humble lodgings in London, under circumstances of extreme difficulty; but when his task was completed, artists, noblemen, and amateurs hastened to gaze upon and admire the extraordinary work of this untaught genius, and numerous orders were pressed upon him. Several other original and boldly conceived works have, since that time, proceeded from his studio.—*New Mon. Mag.. &c.*

1828 (Oct).—In making an excavation for a new harbour at Seaham in the county of Durham, a human skeleton was found about three feet below the surface of the earth, with the head doubled forward upon the breast. It was supposed to be the body of some person who had been murdered at a remote period; most of the small bones were decomposed.—*Local Papers.*

There was at this period residing at the village of Wallsend, Northumberland, an ancient matron, who had attained the patriarchal age of 104 years; was in the possession of all her faculties; in the enjoyment of good health, and had for upwards of half a century received parochial relief from the township of Westgate, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

November 8.—Died, at his house in Gateshead, in the 76th year of his age, Thomas Bewick, the celebrated engraver on wood. He was born in the year 1753 at Cherryburn, near Ovingham, in Northumberland. Manifesting an early proficiency in drawing, he, at the age of fourteen years, was bound apprentice to Ralph Beilby, an engraver in Newcastle, who was a man of considerable talent. Bewick was first brought before the public by his wood cut of "The Old Hound," which gained the premium of seven guineas from the Society of Arts in the year 1775. This no doubt encouraged his genius, and laid the foundation of his success in after life. He cut in wood the mathematical diagrams for Hutton's Mensuration, in quarto, published in Newcastle in the year 1770. Soon after the expiration of his servitude, he was taken into partnership by his master, under the firm of Beilby and Bewick, and in the year 1790 appeared his "History of Quadrupeds." In the year 1795, he, with his brother John, were engaged by William Bulmer, printer of London, (a native of Newcastle) to embellish an edition of Goldsmith's Traveller and Deserted Village, and Parnell's Hermit. The success that attended this volume, induced Mr. Bulmer to engage in the publication of Somerville's Chase as a companion. This was produced the year following. After John Bewick had finished on wood the whole of the designs, except one, which embellish this work, he left London

for Ovingham, where he died on the 5th of December 1795, aged 35 years, and lies buried at Ovingham church. After the death of his brother, Bewick bestowed every possible attention in engraving these blocks. In the year 1797 he published the first volume of *British Birds*; in 1804 the second volume; and in 1818 appeared the last of his published works, "*The Fables of Æsop and others.*" At the time of his death he had cut in wood several illustrations for a *History of Fishes*. Many of his tail pieces have particular allusions:—once a fellow cheated him of a cart of coals, and to punish and expose the fellow, Bewick sketched his likeness, and made the devil drive him (pictorially) to the gallows in his own cart; this cut is in vol. i, page 114, of his *British Birds*—and the tail piece on the last page of his *Fables* represent his own funeral, with a view of Ovingham church; below the cut appears the significant word "*FINIS.*" He was buried at Ovingham church on the 13th of November, and was attended to the grave by many of his old and valued friends. Mr. Bewick possessed a rare union of talent, being a naturalist, a draughtsman, and an engraver. To enumerate the whole



of the works embellished by Messrs. Thomas and John Bewick would far exceed our limits, but we enumerate a portion done by the former. On copper—Illustrations to Consett's Tour in Lapland, the Whitley large Ox, and another prize Ox. His large wood cuts are,—“The Wild Bull of the ancient Caledonian breed, now in the park at Chillingham castle, Northumberland, 1789.” This is his largest wood cut. A Zebra, an Elephant, a Tiger, and a Lion; these were designed and cut on wood for Mr. Pidcock, while he was in Newcastle with his celebrated collection of wild beasts in 1799. He also designed and cut on wood, a lion for Mr. Charnley of Newcastle. This gentleman has gratified collectors, by gathering a number of Bewick's blocks which had strayed from Newcastle, which he published in 1820, in a very neatly printed volume, under the title of “Select Fables.” This contains an original portrait, cut on wood by Charlton Nesbit, also reduced copies of all the portraits of Bewick which had then been engraved. They are four in number. There is also a very fine marble bust of Bewick, by Bailey, in the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle; it was placed there by a subscription of his friends and admirers. The accompanying portrait is a very early specimen of Mr. John Jackson's engraving, we believe between the years 1818 and 1820.—*Local Rec., &c.*

1828 (Nov. 9).—A fire occurred in All Saints' church, Newcastle. When the congregation assembled at 3 o'clock, for divine service, there was a great deal of smoke in the church, which increased so much during the sermon, that many of the congregation were obliged



OLD HOUSES SOUTH SIDE OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH-YARD, NEWCASTLE.

to retire, and therefore the minister (the rev. W. A. Shute), who was preaching, thought it best to conclude abruptly. The church being warmed by a stove, it was found that the upright flue or chimney had been filled with soot, and this having ignited, had heated the iron flue red hot, and as this passed near one of the main timbers of the roof, and was separated from it only by lime, the beam had caught fire, and the flames had communicated to some of the rafters which it supported. Fire engines being immediately sent for, the devouring element was apparently overcome about a quarter past six o'clock; it however partially broke out again about half-past ten, but as one engine and the firemen were still on the spot, it was immediately discovered and finally extinguished about eleven o'clock at night. It was supposed that in half an hour more, the conflagration would have become general and reduced this elegant structure to a mass of ruins. So great was the anxiety for the preservation of the church, that the corpse of Mr. Lax, which was in waiting at four o'clock, could not be interred until between six and seven o'clock. The damage amounted to about £260.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Nov. 10).—Two most shocking murders were committed at Cowley house, near Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, by a man named Joseph Hutchinson, on the bodies of his father and brother, named John and Israel Hutchinson, who were joint occupiers of the farm. The family consisting of the father, two sons, a daughter, and her husband, were all sitting at dinner between twelve and one o'clock, and before the others had finished their meals, Joseph Hutchinson rose and left the table (his usual practice) without any provocation, and retired into a back kitchen, from which, however, he soon returned with a large poker, and with it inflicted a tremendous blow on the head of his brother, which brought him to the ground nearly lifeless. He then aimed a blow at his brother-in-law (Lamb), which grazed his forehead, but he was fortunately able to effect his escape with his wife and children, without further injury. After this, Joseph attacked his father in a furious manner with the same weapon, and continued to do so until life was nearly extinct, when he left the house for a hammer, with which he returned, with the servant girl, (who had been in the yard during the murders) whom he desired to go into the house and get her dinner, apparently regardless of the horrid slaughter he had committed. On re-entering the kitchen, the murderer again commenced beating the heads of his victims with the hammer; he then saddled a fine spirited horse and rode to Durham, as deliberately as if nothing had happened. He went to Mr. Forsyth's, the Newcastle arms, in New Elvet, the house which the family usually went to in Durham, between one and two

o'clock in the afternoon, but left soon after on his return home. By this time a constable of Sedgefield, named Crossling, having been dispatched in pursuit of him, succeeded (with the assistance of two gentlemen in a gig, whom he accidentally met), in securing the murderer near Coxhoe. He was committed to Durham gaol on the coroner's verdict of wilful murder. Two indictments were preferred at the Durham spring assizes, 23rd February, 1829, against Joseph Hutchinson, for the murder of his father and brother, John and Israel Hutchinson, at Sedgefield, but the grand jury returned them with the following words written at the bottom:—"We find that Joseph Hutchinson did cause the death of John and Israel Hutchinson, by the means named in the indictment; but we do not find that bill for murder, as it appears to us that the prisoner was insane at the time of committing the act." The prisoner was brought up and arraigned on the coroner's warrant for the above named murders, and when asked whether he was guilty or not guilty, he replied "I did it, but were they Christians or not?" He seemed perfectly collected, and manifested the greatest indifference to what was passing. Mr. Justice Bailey at first thought that it would be best for the court to put in a plea of "not guilty" for him, as he did not answer satisfactorily. The clerk of the court was proceeding to swear the jury, and on the prisoner being told that he might object to any of the jurymen if he thought proper, he said—"I'll tell them what I'll do, I'll bring a speech box for them." The evident insanity of the prisoner altered his lordship's mind, and he said he thought it would be much better to swear the jury for the purpose of enquiring whether the prisoner was insane or not, and in a fit state of mind to take his trial. The jury were accordingly sworn, and examined Mr. Frushard, the governor of the gaol, his assistant Milbank, Mr. Hepple, surgeon to the gaol, and Mr. Oswald, surgeon, Sedgefield, all of whom stated their decided conviction that he was in an unsound state of mind; and the latter gentleman said that he was sent for to attend him more than two years previously, and at that time recommended his family to send him to a lunatic asylum, as he was not fit to go at large. The jury immediately expressed their opinion that he was of unsound mind, and unfit to take his trial. He was then taken back to the prison and ordered to be detained.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 10).—Two boys, named Donnison and Lamb, the one eleven, the other twelve years of age, were unfortunately killed in a quarry, situated in Diana's grove, on the north Elswick estate, near Newcastle, where they had been sent by their employer, Thomas Colvin, of Gallowgate, tharm maker, to dig coals. In the quarry, there was a passage to an old coal pit, where they dug out the coals which

supported the roof, when a huge rock, of about fifteen tons weight fell upon them and crushed them to death. The rock had to be broken into pieces, before the bodies could be recovered. The boys were son and grandson of a man named Donnison, a tailor, who perished in a storm a few years before, at the Cowgate, near Newcastle, in returning from Woolsington.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Nov. 11).—The dead bodies of two females were discovered in the coach-office of the Turf hotel in Newcastle. One came by the Highflyer coach from York, and the other was brought by a man to be booked for Edinburgh. In consequence of suspicions a police officer was sent for, and the man was taken into custody. The packages were directed to different parties in Edinburgh. Inquests were held on the following day by the coroner for Newcastle, and no marks of violence appearing on the bodies, the verdict was to that effect, and they were interred in St. John's church-yard. The package from York came to Newcastle first on the 8th, and being suspected, was returned thither; and the coach proprietors at York sent it back by the same coach. The man who took the other box to the coach-office was tried and acquitted.—*Ibid*.



SOUTH TRANSEPT OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWCASTLE (1843).

November 13.—Between three and four o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. W. Scott, as a joiner's shop, situated above the brew house belonging to the Bee Hive public-house, in the Close, Newcastle. It was supposed to have originated from some sparks of fire which had been left burning during

the night, coming in contact with the joiner's shavings. The flames were observed issuing from the roof by some keelmen on the river, who gave the alarm. Fire engines being shortly in attendance, with other assistance, the destructive element was confined to the house wherein it broke out, and in a short time was wholly suppressed. The roof fell in, and other considerable damage was done to the amount of about £150. The premises were the property of Mr. Jabez Hood.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 13).—The bell tower of the new Catholic chapel, then building at Hexham, fell with a tremendous crash, which did considerable damage. Fortunately no lives were lost, as it occurred during the workmen's dinner hour. No blame was attached to the builder, Mr. William Oliver, of Durham, as the part that fell was under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Singleton, a difference having taken place between Mr. Oliver and the committee.—*Ibid.*

November 14.—Tuesday, Abraham Hartz, an Israelite, born near Warsaw, in Poland, renounced Judaism, and was baptised in the Christian faith, in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, under the name of John Abraham Hartz, by the rev. John Dodd, vicar.—*Ibid.*

November 20.—A dreadful explosion took place in the Eye Pit, at Washington colliery, upon the river Wear. There were fifteen persons (eleven boys and four men) in the pit when it occurred, all of whom were killed, excepting a man named Michael Hall, the *onsetter*, who was much burnt. The report was awfully loud, and the blast so powerful, that the machinery at the mouth of the pit was blown down and scattered about to some distance, with corves and other weighty bodies from the bottom of the shaft. The colliery had been examined in the morning, and was considered to be in a state of perfect ventilation.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—At the rent day of the marquis of Londonderry, held at Wynyard park, the silver tankard, promised by his lordship to that tenant whose farm should this year be found in the best state of cultivation, was awarded to Mr. Matthew Ryle, of West Herrington, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by Charles William Vane, marquis of Londonderry, for the best and most striking example of industrious labour, and able exertions in husbandry, in the management of his farm and lands, in the year 1828, of all the tenantry." The marquis also highly complimented many others of his tenantry, on the excellent state of their respective farms; and for the better encouragement of agricultural improvement, his lordship signified his intention to give a piece of plate annually in a similar manner.—*Ibid.*

November 28.—This being the day appointed for laying the founda-

tion stones of the new harbour and town of Seaham, in the county of Durham, an immense concourse of people had assembled to witness the imposing ceremony. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, accompanied by lord Ravensworth and family, and other distinguished friends, arrived in their carriages, a little before one o'clock. They then alighted within a short distance of the harbour, and on the line of road which led to it. Here "The Wellington Car," (that in which the illustrious Wellington passed along the colliery waggon-ways, when he visited the county of Durham, the preceding year,) was ready to receive them, and into which the distinguished party immediately entered, and were conducted down the railway towards the site of the new harbour, preceded by the marquis's band of music. On reaching the spot where the ceremony was to take place, the marquis of Londonderry, sir C. Sharp, and John Buddle, esq., alighted, cheered by the loudest acclamations; this was a most interesting moment, as Seaham-hall, the church, and many of the neighbouring farm-houses, a wind-mill, and the temporary erections near the harbour, were decorated with flags. Mr. Buddle having mounted the stone, he presented his lordship with a splendid silver trowel, on one side of which was engraved a plan of the new harbour, and on the other the Londonderry arms, and the following inscription:—"This trowel was presented to the most honourable Charles William Vane Stewart, Marquis of Londonderry, by John Buddle, on laying the foundation stone of the north pier of Seaham harbour, this 28th day of Nov., 1828." The handle was formed of Rainton coal, highly polished. Mr. Buddle in presenting this trowel, complimented his lordship as having spent great part of his life as a soldier, and on his now shewing a desire to preserve the lives of British seamen, as he regarded this harbour as an undertaking commenced, less to serve his own interest, than from the patriotic motive of affording a place of refuge for shipping on that coast, where a few years ago such disastrous wrecks had taken place, and which he was well assured would have been prevented had the vessels had such a port of safety to have recourse to, as was now about to be constructed. Sir Cuthbert Sharp also spoke on the occasion, and expressed himself of opinion, that this great undertaking, so far from being injurious to the town of Sunderland, as had been conjectured, would be beneficial to it. In a speech of considerable length, sir Cuthbert was repeatedly and loudly cheered, and having passed a high eulogium upon the noble marquis and his lady, he presented to the latter a flag having the armorial bearings of the noble family, encircled with the motto of "Success to Seaham Harbour." The marquis of Londonderry then laid the foundation stone of the north-east pier of the inner harbour. His lordship

observed, that he was delighted to see so many friends around him on this occasion; he had commenced, he said, the great undertaking, in honour of which they were now assembled, less for his own advantage than for serving the public, and for advancing the commercial interests of the county of Durham. He had begun it by the advice of his valued friend Mr. Buddle, and when he considered that he not only had the opinion of Mr. Chapman, the engineer, but also of Mr. Telford, and of Mr. Rennie in his favour, he could not help confidently looking forward to a successful termination. The cheering which followed his lordship's speech, which had been delivered with much feeling, lasted for some time, and a salute of 34 guns was fired from the neighbouring cliff to signify the conclusion of the first ceremony. As the car was drawn from the beach, the noble family was again loudly cheered. On reaching the summit of the bank, Mr. Chapman, the engineer, presented himself, and handing to the noble marquis a plan of the harbour, took occasion to deliver a few observations on the forwardness of the work which had been so recently commenced, and on the future extent of its utility. Mr. Chapman's speech was loudly cheered. The marquis and marchioness, and their friends having alighted from the car, walked round the limits of the harbour to inspect the progress of the works, and then re-entering their barouche, drawn by four beautiful horses, they proceeded to the spot where the foundation stone of the first house of Seaham town was to be laid by viscount Seaham. The marquis and his interesting little boy, here descended from the carriage, and were received by John Dobson, esq., of Newcastle, architect, who in presenting a plan of the intended town to lord Seaham, who was to lay the foundation stone, observed, that in preparing the design, he had calculated on that place becoming a port of considerable eminence, and he trusted that his gallant father and accomplished mother would have cause to look back with pride on the proceedings of that day. Mr. Dobson then presented the young lord with a very handsome silver trowel, the handle formed of limestone of a very fine description, with which the Seaham estate abounds. Lord Seaham, who had not attained his eighth year, replied to Mr. Dobson, as follows:—"Mr. Dobson, I thank you. I cannot make a speech, but I wish success to the town, and happiness to the people." His lordship having completed the ceremony, the cheers of the assembled multitude, were followed by another salute of 34 guns from the cliff, and the crowd then moved gradually to the northward, notice having been given that all persons were required to retire beyond a certain barrier, prior to the firing of a mine, which was to blow into the air a large mass of rock, to commemorate the occurrences of the day. Sufficient time was given for

this purpose, and a signal gun was fired two minutes before the springing of the mine, that all persons might be upon their guard and look to their own safety. The explosion at length took place, and the rock was shivered to pieces in a moment, and parts of it were hurled into the air and scattered for some distance round. Three persons who had not attended to the caution were injured by the fall of the fragments, one man having a shoulder dislocated, another his arm broken, and a boy received a severe contusion. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry and their friends, after witnessing the explosion, retired to Seaham hall, where a sumptuous banquet was provided for a very large assemblage of the most respectable gentry in the county of Durham, and of the adjoining counties. The health of the marchioness of Londonderry preceded all others, and was drunk with repeated cheers. "The marquis of Londonderry," "Lord Seaham, and the junior branches of the family," and "Success to Seaham harbour," followed, and were received with the most enthusiastic applause. The company, consisting of nearly 400 persons, were not less gratified by the elegant profusion on the board, than with the courtesy, kindness, and condescension of the noble host and hostess. The proceedings of this day will be long recollected with pleasure and satisfaction, as well by those who partook of the splendid hospitality of Seaham hall, as by those who were spectators of the noble and important proceedings of laying the foundation stones of a new harbour and town. The number of persons present, at the most moderate calculation, may be stated at 7,000. The brass plate, hermetically sealed in a glass case, deposited beneath the pier, bore the following inscription :—

"Charles William Vane,
Third Marquis of Londonderry,
Viscount Castlereagh and Baron Stewart,
Of Mount Stewart, and of Ballilawn in Ireland,
And
First Earl Vane and Viscount Seaham
Of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
K. C. B., G. C. H., K. B. E., K. R. E., K. S. G., K. S., K. T. S., &c. &c.
Laid the Foundation Stone
Of Seaham Harbour,
A. D., 1828, Nov. 28th.

Having married Frances Anne Vane Tempest, only daughter of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, bart., by Anne, Countess of Antrim, he became possessed of the estates and collieries of the Vane and Tempest families of the county of Durham, and having added and annexed the estate of Seaham to the same, he embarked in the construction of this harbour, with

an humble and confident hope of facilitating the exportation of the produce of the mines, and of augmenting the commercial interest of the county of Durham. In this undertaking, the founder has been chiefly advised by the tried experience and indefatigable industry of his valued friend and agent,

John Buddle, Esq., of Wallsend.

William Chapman, Esq., Engineer.

The inscription on the plate placed in the foundation stone of the town was as follows :—

“ George Henry Robert Charles Vane,
Viscount Seaham,
Laid the Foundation Stone
Of the First House of Seaham Town,
Nov. 28th, 1828, A. D.

John Dobson, Esq., Architect.”

—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov. 29).—Saturday, at night, a heavy rain commenced, and was incessant during the whole of Sunday, the 30th, by which the Tyne was swollen to a considerable height, and a float of timber, from above Newcastle bridge, and various other property was carried down the stream. The Tyne also flowed into some old workings at Townley main colliery, near Stella, and unfortunately drowned one man and fourteen horses, in the Star fleet pit. The water was several feet deep in the mill and other buildings at Scotswood. Part of the battlement of Wallsend bridge, on the Newcastle and North Shields turnpike was carried away by the flood in the brook. Mr. James Lamb, of Harbottle, Northumberland, surgeon, unfortunately came by his death from the same cause. He and other persons had been fishing for salmon trout in the Coquet with leisters; an unlawful practice in a close time, but common in that neighbourhood. He afterwards spent some time at a friend's house in Allenton, which he left with a boy in the dark. His clothes being wet, it is supposed he attempted for nearness to ford the river, as the boy missed him. The water being high he was carried down the stream three miles, where his body was found the next day.—*Ibid.*

November 30.—Considerable anxiety was felt in Newcastle for several days in consequence of Mr. Thomas Gibson, the comptroller of the customs, and eldest son of the late Benjamin Gibson, esq., having on the above day (Sunday), left his own house at Chimney-mills, on the edge of the Leazes, at five o'clock in the afternoon to take his usual walk (his custom whether rain or fair), and did not return, Mr. Ridley, a neighbour, saw him go out at the gate on to the

moor, and take the direction of the race course. Not coming home to tea, Mrs. Gibson became rather alarmed, and, accompanied by a friend, went out with lanterns late that night, and again by three o'clock on the morning, (being moon-light) but no traces of him could be found. Search of every description was made during the week, and it was only on Friday afternoon that Mr. Taylor Gibson, his brother, got information that a straw hat had been taken up on Monday morning in the bull's park at the south end of the Town moor, which proved to be the hat Mr. Gibson had on when he went out. Mr. Ridley above named, hearing of this, took a survey of the neighbourhood, and very soon almost made himself certain that Mr. Gibson had slipped into a runner of water near the mouth of a large conduit (on the north side of the new water pond on the moor) that took its course into the bull's park, and on exploring this on the Saturday the body was found. W. Fife, esq., the coroner, held an inquest on the body the same evening, and the following verdict was given:—"On Saturday the 6th day of December inst., the body of Thomas Gibson, who had been missing since Sunday the 30th of November, was found drowned and suffocated in a certain conduit situated on the Town moor, in the parish of St. Nicholas, in the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne; that the said Thomas Gibson had no marks of violence appearing on his body, otherwise than might be occasioned by having passed a considerable space along the conduit, and that the jurors are of opinion the said Thomas Gibson had fallen into the entrance of the said conduit, and had been swept away by the violence of the flood which at that time prevailed, in consequence of a long and continued rain which had fallen on Saturday and Sunday the 29th and 30th of November." Mr. Gibson, when found, was very little altered in his appearance. He was in his 64th year, was a man of mild and affectionate disposition and very charitable to the poor. The flood, as soon as Mr. Gibson's body had stopped, had burst the conduit upwards in the bull's park, and the hat had been thrown up through the aperture. Two pit boys had been employed to explore the conduit from the mouth, and air holes were occasionally made for them until they came to the body of the unfortunate gentleman at the distance of 250 yards. Mr. Gibson had been at church with his brother on the Sunday morning, and afterwards took a walk before dinner. After he had dined, he put on his old clothes and assisted the servant in clearing the yard which was much flooded by the rain, and then went out as above stated. The mouth of the conduit was three feet high, and it was satisfactorily proved on the inquest, that Mr. Gibson had met his death, by getting, through mistake in the dark, into the ditch or line of the conduit, and by the impetuosity of the

flood had been thrown down and forced into it without the least possibility of extricating himself.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (December 1).—On the morning of this day, (Monday) at three o'clock, the wind commenced blowing a most terrific hurricane from E. N. E. It came on in a moment (the wind previously west), and catching several coasting vessels in shore, the consequences were most disastrous. Near Seaham, there were on shore, the Pilot, and New Concord, both of Sunderland; and the St. Helena and the Granicus, both of Shields, the latter a total wreck. The people on board these vessels mistook the lights on the erections going on at the new harbour at Seaham, for Sunderland harbour lights; and it was not until day-break, they discovered their real situation. The schooner Triton, of Arbroath, Thomas Ford, master, with a crew of four men, three boys, and one passenger, laden with rye, from Liebau (Baltic) bound for Newcastle, struck on a rock off Newton by the Sea, Northumberland, and was driven on shore a complete wreck, where she was discovered about six A. M., with the hands clinging to the rigging. No time was lost by lieut. Brunton, R. N., of the preventive service, in getting captain Manby's apparatus down to the beach, but several shots were fired without being able to reach the wreck; and by this time the strength of the poor sufferers was so exhausted, that they were seen one by one dropping into a watery grave, when lieut. Brunton, gallantly offered to attempt reaching the wreck in a fisherman's coble, if four fishermen would accompany him. Four brave fellows instantly volunteered to risk their lives to save their fellow-creatures, and after being twice driven back by the tremendous surge, they at length reached the vessel. There were then three men alive, but melancholy to relate, only one (James Patterson) had strength to avail himself of the proffered assistance. The surf was now so high, that to remain by the wreck was impossible, and every exertion to get the boat clear became necessary: in this they had scarcely succeeded, when she unfortunately swamped, and her crew were plunged at once into that peril, from which they had been so laudably endeavouring to save their fellow-creatures. Fortunately, from the circumstance of a line being attached to the boat, previous to her putting off, those on shore were enabled in their turn, to render assistance, and ultimately all the boat's crew were got safe on shore. The bark, Mary, of Leith, Davidson, master, timber laden, drifted on Bondicar rocks, near Warkworth. About eight o'clock, six of the crew took to the jolly boat, and made for the shore. In a few minutes the boat was swamped; four of them reached the land by the assistance of the spectators; the other two sunk to rise no more. There were then

ten people left on board ; the fore-mast gone, also the main-top-mast, and the sea making a constant passage over her. At ten o'clock, being high water, the vessel went athwart ; the long boat was washed off her deck, and fell on its bottom, when two of the crew got in for the purpose of bailing it. Providentially it was soon after stove, which in all probability prevented the crew from sharing a similar fate to that of their unfortunate companions. At two o'clock P. M., Mr. John Muers, agent for Lloyd's, made a signal for a buoy to be put over, and at the same time requested four young men, fishermen of Hauxley, to go off in a coble, which had been procured for the purpose. They succeeded in getting the line, which was landed ; but the people on the shore being numerous and anxious, it was broken in their exertions. The boat returned, and got a second, which was tied with more caution, and at length got a warp ; the boat then laid about 50 yards from the vessel's bow, and about a 100 from the shore. The end of the warp was held by the people on the beach, and by that means the crew were lowered into the coble, and safely landed. A few days subsequent to these disasters, the managing committee of the Royal National Shipwreck Institution of London, awarded their gold medallion to lieut. Brunton, for his gallant and humane conduct in rescuing the only surviving mariner from the wreck of the Triton, together with twenty pounds to the four fishermen who assisted him with their coble on that occasion. The rev. Joseph Cook and captain Cook, both of Newton hall, also gave £1. each, to the Hauxley fishermen, who went off to the assistance of the crew of the barque Mary, on Bondicar rocks.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Nov).—About the close of this month, the ground sunk considerably on the turnpike, west of Newcastle, opposite to Fenham, supposed to have been caused by the *creeping* of some old coal pit underneath.—*Ibid.*

December 1.—About five o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered at the mill occupied by Mr. Thomas Tickell, at Houghton-le-Spring, caused, it was supposed, by the machinery breaking away all the fastenings, from the heavy gale which blew that night. With the assistance of the neighbours, who ran great risk of their lives, the fire was fortunately extinguished.—*Ibid.*

December 3.—On the evening of this day (Wednesday), as an apprentice to Mr. W. Nesom, butcher, Sunderland, was driving two oxen into that town, they both took fright. One of them ran to the sea beach and was soon secured, but the other galloped on to the Pier, and lept into the sea, and swam to the buoys about 400 yards from the entrance of the harbour. It was quite dark at the time. Fortunately a coble was at hand, which put to sea, and the crew,

after a good deal of difficulty, succeeded in getting a rope round the neck of the animal. They then towed it into the harbour, where it was safely landed. It then walked quietly to Mr. Nesom's shop, amidst a great crowd of spectators.—*Local Papers*.

1828 (Dec. 6).—About five o'clock in the evening, a small corn loft, the property of Mr. Scott, maltster, at the foot of the Bottle Bank, Gateshead, came down with a heavy crash, to the no small alarm of the neighbourhood. The building had not been erected above eight or nine years, and decay was no way perceptible. There was about thirteen lasts of barley in it at the time. The maltman and his son had a narrow escape; they were going up the yard on their way to the building at the moment of its giving way.—*Ibid*.

December 8.—As a coachman was returning from Whitley towards North Shields with a carriage and pair, the horses taking fright, darted forward, threw the driver from his seat, and continued at a rapid pace, clearing all the turns until they arrived at Shields, where they passed along several streets, and finished their career by running down the long and steep steps that lead from Dockwray-square to the Low-Light, without any other injury than a broken pole. The coachman was not much hurt.—*Ibid*.

December.—A very splendid organ was erected in the parish church of Ryton, Durham, which, both for quality of tone and power,



RYTON CHURCH (1838).

is exceeded by very few in this part of the country, and does infinite credit to the builders, Messrs. Wood, Small, and Comp., of Edinburgh.—*Local Papers.*

1828 (Dec. 12).—A few minutes before twelve o'clock, a bullet entered through the upper part of a window in the Guildhall, Newcastle, into a room where Mr. Thomas Forsyth, the town marshal and several of the police officers were sitting. It struck against the opposite wall and fell upon the floor without injury to any person. No discovery was made whence, or from whom it came, though no doubt was entertained that the object was an attempt of some miscreant on the life of Mr. Forsyth.—*Ibid.*

December 20.—As some workmen were digging in the kitchen of an old house in Warren street, Sunderland, for the purpose of lowering the floor, they found a human skeleton, quite entire, about two feet below the floor which had been a flagged one. Conjectures with respect to this deposit were numerous, but none satisfactory, so that the circumstance relating to the interment of the body remained veiled in mystery.—*Ibid.*

December.—This month the Royal Humane Society presented £5. to Edward Birney, joiner at the Glass-works of sir M. W. Ridley, bart. and Co., Newcastle, for having on the 30th of September preceding, rescued from drowning, Eleanor Jobling, a little girl who had fallen into the Tyne. The reward was obtained through the benevolent interference of the duke of Northumberland.—*Ibid.*

Died, this year, at Chatham, North America, highly respected, aged 88, Robert Reid, esq. formerly high sheriff and register of the county of Northumberland. He held the sheriffalty 21 years, and kept the registry till 1823. In early life Mr. Reid acted ten years as amanuensis to Dr. Adam Smith, the celebrated author of the *Wealth of Nations*. He was well known to several people who are still alive in Scotland, and various anecdotes are still current of him and his illustrious employer. The apartment is yet to be seen at Kirkaldy, where the one dictated and the other transcribed that celebrated work. The positions can still be pointed out where the amanuensis sat at his little table, and where the philosopher sat in his chair by the fire, leaning his head to the wall.—*Gent's. Mag.*

This year, the following whimsical exemption from the militia appeared amongst the returns posted on the door of St. Mary's church, in Gateshead:—"Exempt—a recruiting sergeant in the army of Immanuel, whose kingdom is not of this world, viz.—a licensed Wesleyan Methodist Preacher." Signed. "Hodgson Casson." Mr. Casson at the time was the minister of the methodist chapel in Gateshead.—*Local Rec.*

1828.—Died, this year, in Paris, Miss Helen Maria Williams, pre-eminent amongst the violent female partisans of the French Revolution. She is said to have been born about the year 1762; was a native of the north of England, and resided some time at Berwick. Miss Williams went to London at the age of eighteen, and was introduced to the world, as a writer, by Dr. Kippis. She was the avowed author of many works. Her first poem was "Edwin and Elfrida," a legendary tale, in verse, published in 1782. She next produced, in 1783, "An Ode on Peace;" in 1784, "Peru," a poem; in 1786, in two volumes, "A Collection of Miscellaneous Poems;" and, in 1788, "Poems on the Slave Trade." About the last mentioned year, she visited France, where she formed many literary and political connexions, and where she published several works, the effects of which were, to render the French Revolution popular amongst certain parties in England, and to recommend their author to the Brissotins at Paris. In the succeeding clash of factions, she was in great danger, and was actually confined in the Temple; but, on the fall of Robespierre, she was released. After her liberation, she resumed her literary labours, and for some years wrote that portion of the New Annual Register, which related to the affairs of France. Subsequently Miss Williams appeared only as the enemy of the revolution, and a friend to the Bourbons.—*Mon. Mag.*

This year the library of the Botanical and Horticultural Society of Northumberland and Durham was established.—*Ibid.*





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